

صباحنا من الامل



Friday November 15 1996

Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Friday Review



Joe Queenan learns to love Spike Lee



Alan Partridge reviews Tony Ferrino

With European weather

Cover story

Music pages 10/13

£27m for power 'fat cats'

Political row rekindled by new utilities bonanza

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

A GROUP of power industry executives scooped £26.9 million in pay-offs and compensation payments as a result of last year's takeovers and mergers in the electricity industry.

for stricter enforcement of the proposed codes of practice. The huge payouts will infuriate unions in an industry which has seen 50,000 jobs axed in the six years since privatisation. They are braced for further job cuts following the takeovers. The scale of payments is revealed in documents filed at Companies House and analysed by the Guardian. It far exceeds earlier estimates. One executive, former North web chairman Ken Harvey, received a total package of nearly £2 million including a last-minute pay rise of £277,000 — enough to pay the power bill

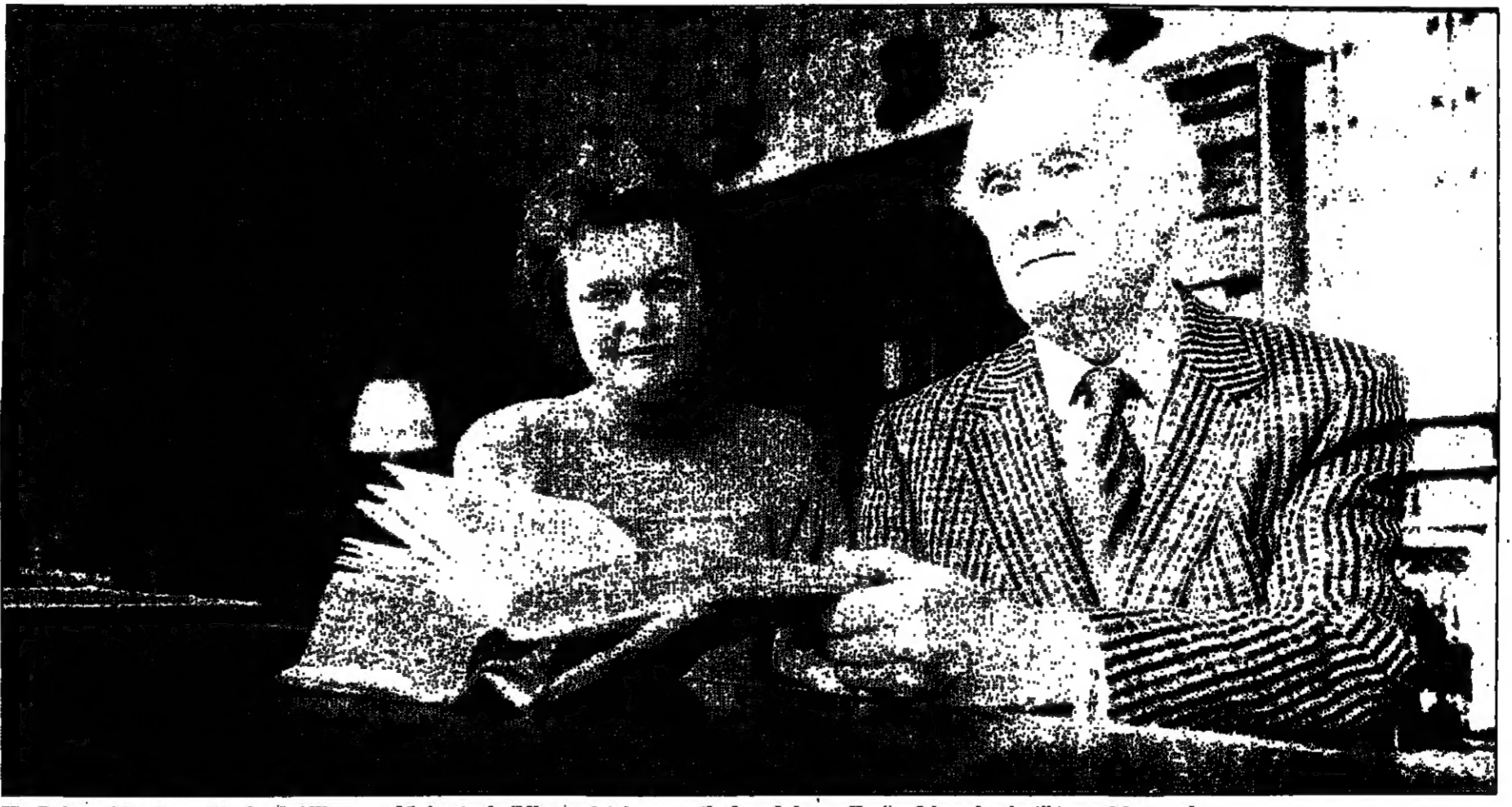
of an average family for 1,250 years — before the Manchester-based electricity company was bought by neighbour North West Water. The pay increase took his total remuneration to £2.87 million, including payments for share options, pension, and compensation for loss of office. Enormous payments have also been made to small numbers of executives at Eastern Group, Seaboard, Manweb and South Wales Electricity. Six regional electricity companies were bought last year as part of the wave of electricity industry takeovers. Midlands was purchased this year, and neither it nor South Western Electricity has filed their full accounts. The figures show huge benefits have gone not just to directors who have quit the industry, but also to some who continue to hold highly paid posts. At Eastern Group, chairman John Devaney was paid more than £1.3 million for his share options when Lord Hanson's conglomerate bought the Ipswich-based electricity company last year. He remains at the helm of the firm. Dr James Smith, Eastern's former chairman and a grand

Merchant banks, lawyers, accountants, and public relations firms have also prospered on the back of the takeovers, totalling £12.7 billion over 18 months. The cost of defending the six electricity companies came to more than £75 million. The pay-offs and massive fees to City advisers will reignite outcry over 'fat cats' just as Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang must decide whether to block the recent bids for East Midlands turn to page 3, column 4 Power game millionaires, page 12; Notebook, page 11

£1,200 payout too little for me, says duke

Stuart Millar

HE is worth £78 million, owns 20,000 acres and can boast that his second home is regarded as the most romantic house in England. But His Grace the Duke of Rutland, Britain's 64th wealthiest man, is locked in battle with a building society over the regal sum of £1,200. The normally retiring 77-year-old 10th Duke, whose art treasures alone are valued at £34 million, has provoked fury from small investors in the Alliance & Leicester with demands that he should receive a greater share of the £50 million the society is offering to members when it becomes a bank next year. He and 1,000 other wealthy members — with investments totalling £50 million — dismiss the A&L's across-the-board bonus share offer to give all 2.4 million members a windfall of about £1,200 each



The Duke and Duchess of Rutland: Alliance and Leicester building society's across-the-board share offer "unfair and unjust" to wealthy members

Multi-millionaire with eye for a bargain, despite two stately homes

BORN Charles John Robert Manners in 1919, the 10th Duke of Rutland inherited his title and his fortune at the age of 20 when his father died, writes Stuart Millar. Last year, he was valued at £78 million — £1 million poorer than pop singer Paul McCartney. Belvoir Castle, the family seat, boasts 160 rooms and sits in 18,000 acres of land. The estate is also home to the Duke's foxhounds, the Belvoir Hunt, where Princess Diana overcame her distaste for field sports.

of the leisure group Rutland Hotels Ltd. In 1988, he underlined his business acumen, cornering the market in early Christmas holidays by offering Yuletide breaks at Belvoir over the August bank holiday. A lifelong Tory, he is as afraid of losing out under Labour as through the Alliance & Leicester. Last year, he presided over a meeting of aristocrats who were briefed by a team of accountants on how to take precautions against politicians.

The duke is known as much for his looks as his wealth. He was once seen as a suitable escort for the then Princess Elizabeth, and is widely recognised to be the inspiration for many of Barbara Cartland's bodice-ripping heroines. Even now she describes him as the "most handsome man in England". The family is well used to making enemies. Last summer, 5,000 trout in his lake were poisoned with cyanide, and threats have been received from extreme anti-hunting groups.

Zaire rebels threaten rescue mission

Chris McGreal in Goma and Martin Walker in Washington

AN INTERNATIONAL force of 15,000 troops is to start deploying in and around Zaire early next week, officials in New York decided yesterday. But rebels in eastern Zaire rejected any outside force that failed to disarm Rwandan Hutu extremists, while the Hutus threatened to attack it. The factions kept up their fighting, threats and shelling of refugee camps, while Europe and north America

agreed the United Nations mandate and the orderly planning of "our biggest logistical challenge since the Gulf war". Britain sent the deputy chief of the defence staff, General Alex Hurrell, to the New York planning session with Canadian, United States, French, Spanish and other participants. A British reconnaissance force of about 40 leaves for Zaire today to survey the situation before any final decision on sending a force of about 1,000. Yesterday, 45 Commando, 1st Para and 5 Airborne headquarters were put on increased alert for deployment. Speaking in the Commons, the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, said: "The House will rightly ask why Britain should become involved in a place far from our country and where no vital national interest is engaged. Because we are a civilised nation. But in Goma, Laurent Kabila, leader of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, said he was suspicious of plans to deploy troops from France or Britain because of their colonial history in Africa. His forces in Goma yesterday launched artillery and mortar attacks at Mugunga

refugee camp, a base for the Hutu Interahamwe militias which continued to resist the rebel advance after the Zairian army fled. The first US scouting party told the Pentagon from Goma yesterday that the airport could be secured and used as an advance base, and that the security threat was manageable. But it stressed that the priority would be to get the base functioning and make the security corridor to refugee areas safe, before the mammoth logistical task of bringing food and medical aid to more than a million refugees. Only the Canadians can claim innocence of a colonial record. The neo-colonial flavour of the force was strengthened yesterday when Britain considered its offer of participation, and South Africa said it was not quite ready to join what is to be called Operation Phoenix Tusk. In Washington, Republican congress members voiced doubts about the hastily conceived and vaguely mandated mission for up to 5,000 US troops in hearings with the defence secretary, William Perry, yesterday. Mr Perry said the US would not go in unless it were invited, and while US troops would have "robust" orders to defend themselves, "we are not going in as a means of conducting military operations". There was little sign of any invitation from Goma yesterday. Mr Kabila criticised the planned force as intent on feeding Rwandan refugees without combating the extremist militias which have used the camps to attack Zaire and cross into Rwanda. Mr Kabila said his rebels would not relinquish control of Goma airport and insisted aid must come by road. Dangers of peacekeeping, page 6; Letter comment, page 8; No bloodless miracle, page 9

Abbey National Guaranteed Growth Bond advertisement. Features a large '140%' graphic and text: 'UP TO 140% GUARANTEED. FILE FOR EARLY INVESTORS. A PREMIUM RATE OF 8% GROSS P.A. UNTIL 1.2.97.' Includes contact number 0800 100 801 and Abbey National logo.

Inside Britain World News Finance Sport Comment and Letters 6; Obituaries 10 Friday Review Quick Crossword 15; Weather, TV and Radio 16

Table of contents for the newspaper, listing sections like Inside, Britain, World News, Finance, Sport, Comment and Letters, Obituaries, Friday Review, Quick Crossword, Weather, TV and Radio.



2 NEWS

Sketch

Old goat and the little sardine



Simon Hoggart

ARRIVED in the Chamber to catch a Northern Ireland minister, Sir John Wheeler. (Sir John is a figure of such majestic pomposity that when a secretary failed to write "Sir" on a letter to him, he complained, and the young woman was almost sacked.)

lights flashing". Like me just now, Mr Major turned to lurching sarcasm. As he approaches his seventh year in office, the Prime Minister increasingly adopts a tone which implies: "Only those of us who have spent time in government are capable of understanding government."

Income distribution remains more unequal than in 1979 □ 13.7 million still living below poverty line

Poor narrow income gap

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

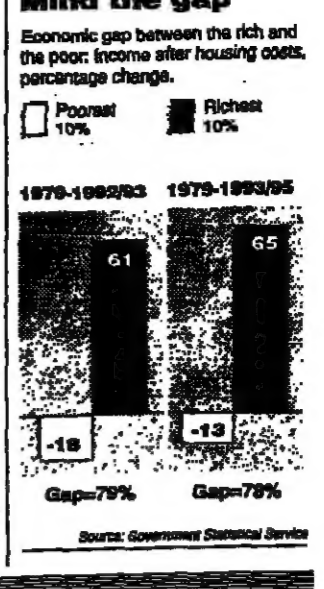
The gap between Britain's rich and poor has stopped widening for the first time in 20 years, according to official figures released yesterday which show that 400,000 fewer people are living below the official poverty line.

in a full-time job, the figures reveal. The income gap between rich and poor started widening before the Conservatives took office in 1979, but accelerated sharply during the 1980s.

level, with that of the poorest tenth falling 13 per cent and that of the richest tenth rising by 65 per cent. Compared with the 1992-93 picture, the bottom 40 per cent of households in income terms improved their relative position by 1993-95.

growth, tax increases and boosts to in-work benefits for the low-paid. Ministers found themselves unable to crow about the change, having played down the growth of inequality in the first place.

at the top of the agenda in the forthcoming general election. Of the 13.7 million people living in poverty, couples with children were the largest single group, she said.



MARGARET Thatcher (above) was yesterday scolded as "wrong and emotional" by a senior Chinese official after the former Prime Minister condemned the jailing of dissidents, boasted about Hong

Kong's success under colonialism and predicted the demise of one-party rule in China, writes Andrew Higgins in Beijing. A witty, worded lecture by Lady Thatcher at a two-day business conference

in Beijing drew a pointed rebuke from Wu Yi, vice-chairman of China's state commission for restructuring economic systems. The trade minister, Wu Yi, left the room during Lady Thatcher's address.

"She has just said many good things but she has also said some things that are not quite accurate and expressed them in a rather emotional way," Wu Yi said.

First night

Looking for Mr Redgrave

Michael Billington

LYNN Redgrave's one-woman show, widely seen in America, is the story of her lifelong quest for her father's love.

breathily offering advice to the aspiring actress. The danger is that it could easily descend into green room gossip: an inbred show for aficionados only. But what makes it something infinitely more touching is the sense of relieved pain.

Tebbit slates 'pygmy' MPs

Thatcher stalwart says slide to Brussels would destroy Tories

Even MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE former Conservative Party chairman, Lord Tebbit, has dismissed with scorn the bulk of today's Conservative Central Office — which could do without such divisive speeches in the run-up to the general election — said it was not unusual for Lord Tebbit to use robust language, and that in any case he was discussing a hypothetical situation involving a single currency on which no decision had been taken.

mentary pygmies accepting a slide towards being little more than a provincial assembly with subordinate powers to legislate over a shrinking portion of our national affairs," Lord Tebbit said.

state called Europe, would not just split the Conservative Party. It would destroy it. "All those Conservatives who believe freedom, independence and democracy matter above all other political programmes would leave to join with those of other parties who shared that view."

In The Week tomorrow

- Ecstasy or bust
Can campaigners change drugs'n clubs culture?
First principles
John Berger on why art must go back to the cavemen
Plus Gays and Christians

'Drunk' drummer fights sacking for missing beat

John Ezard

"A TYMPANIST can destroy the rhythmic harmony of the orchestra completely if he's not in time," the BBC's northern head of music, Trevor Green, told an industrial tribunal yesterday.

completely. Then "the tympany wheel came off the podium and obviously made quite a noise", according to Mr Green.

He told Mr Lomax's counsel, David Binns: "I'm not a puritan. Certainly I like a drink myself. I do not like drinking in venues where the performance is taking place."

Advertisement for Guinness featuring images of bottles and a man. Text includes 'Luvvy jubbly', 'Don't be a plonker, save yourself some dosh!', and 'only £7.99'. The BBC logo is also present.

'He is a vicious, vituperative, vitriolic, objectionable, abusive, arrogant, excretory, disgruntled, cavilling, small-minded, arse-licking, toadying sycophant who should never be let near a theatre again' — Michael Bogdanov on the critic he hates the most

Enter the director, cursing villains

Dan Glatzer Arts Correspondent

VICIOUS, excretory, arse-licking, arrogant. And that was just the headline. Theatre director Michael Bogdanov yesterday sparked off a search for the most detested critic in Britain when he published a vitriolic attack in the New Statesman.

"I am often asked which critic I dislike most," he wrote. "I am hard-pushed. There are many contenders." Mr Bogdanov, artistic director of the English Shakespeare Company, goes on to describe a critic who is a "vicious, vituperative, vitriolic, objectionable, abusive, arrogant, excretory, disgruntled, cavilling, small-minded, arse-licking, toadying sycophant who should never be let near a theatre again".

The portrait could apply to any one of several critics. Chief suspect for many was Charles Spencer, of the Daily Telegraph. He wrote a damning review of Mr Bogdanov's RSC production of Faust last year in which he described the director as a buffoon and wrote: "One's knee positively itches for Bogdanov's groin."

Mr Spencer willingly accepted the role of chief suspect yesterday. "I'd be honoured. I'd be very happy to be his most-hated critic. I can't be ruled out. I normally hate all of his productions, although I did like one once."

Mr Spencer revealed that he had received a letter from Mr Bogdanov after his review of Faust was published which bore some resemblance to yesterday's article. In the letter, Mr Bogdanov attacked his "naughty, vicious, vituperative [sic], ignorant, ill-informed attack on my person and my production... in case you were thinking of attending the transfer at the Barbican — don't. Furthermore, I do not wish to see you at any of my productions in the future."

Case proven? Apparently not. Another suspect, the Observer's Michael Coveney,

said: "He's said that to almost every critic. Bogdanov could be referring to anyone who doesn't like his work, and that's most of us. Bogdanov is a scrapper — nothing wrong with that."

Mr Bogdanov's RSC production of Faust, which opened at Stratford last year and transferred to the Barbican this autumn, received generally favourable reviews. It was remarked upon for Bogdanov's updating of the story, with nudity, video screens, and complicated stage machinery.

Chief suspect for many, and a critic with a string of convictions, was Nicholas de Jongh, of the Evening Standard. "I'm mildly amused," he said. "It's interesting that the actors and directors who get good reviews are never to be found attacking critics."

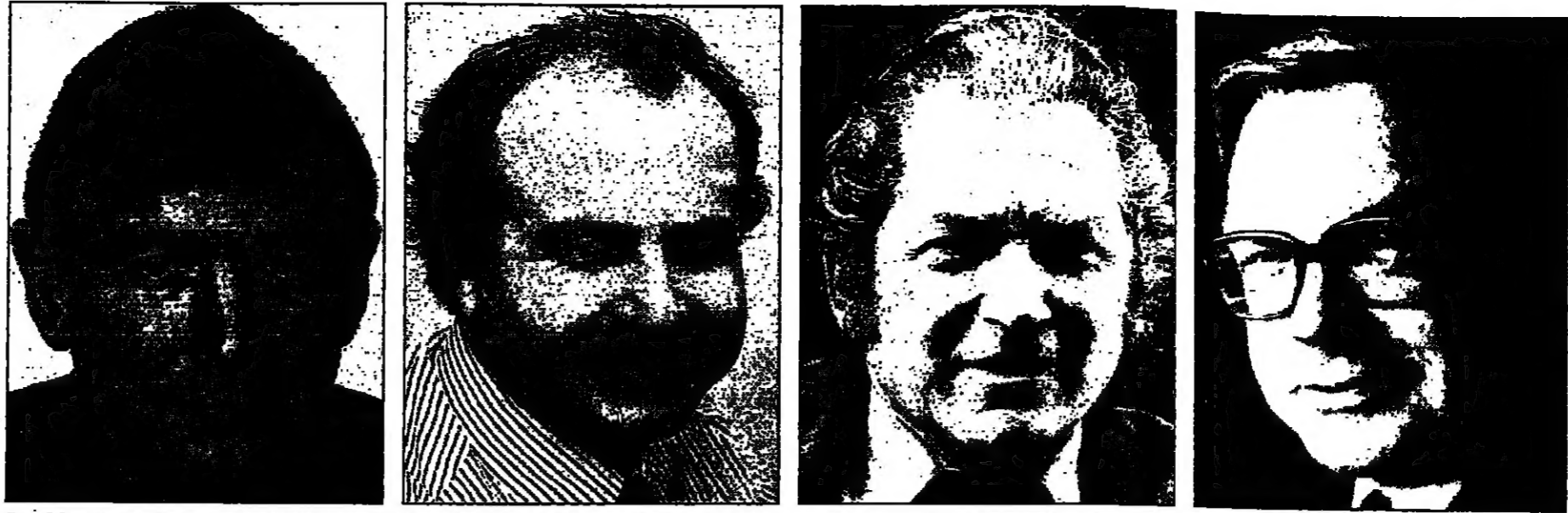
Mr de Jongh also noted that critics wrote for audiences, not for directors. "He wants critics not to be members of the audience but people with special knowledge, which I think is not suitable."

John Peter, of the Sunday Times, also in the line-up, said: "This mass bollocking of critics is silly. It does something which he deeply disapproves of in critics, which is to generalise. But we shouldn't be too touchy because we are in the advantageous position. Bogdanov has had a good career in the theatre. It's a shame he has so much ill-feeling bottled up."

The Guardian's Michael Billington, an early suspect who has since been eliminated from inquiries, said: "It's not precise enough. It's scatter-gun rhetoric. I think it's a mischievous device to get people speculating. Why doesn't he have the courage to name names?"

Mr Billington did, however, agree with one of Mr Bogdanov's points: that critics would benefit from being involved in theatre productions.

Mr Bogdanov may be able to take sweeter revenge on the critics: four of them, including Mr de Jongh and Mr Billington, are to direct plays at the Battersea Arts Centre next spring.



Speaking their minds... top, left to right, Michael Bogdanov, Charles Spencer, of the Daily Telegraph, John Peter, of the Sunday Times, and the Guardian's Michael Billington; below, a scene from the director's production of Faust, described variously as dire, inventive, fatiguing and gleefully theatrical



... And what the theatre critics say about Michael Bogdanov

Extracts from reviews of Faust at The Swan, Stratford-on-Avon, September 1995

Charles Spencer
Daily Telegraph
It's a dirty job but someone's got to do it, and after more than six hours of ceaseless gimmickry, putting the boot into Michael Bogdanov's dire production of Goethe's masterpiece becomes a duty as well as a pleasure... One experiences a similar revulsion as this dreadful director, who has been so aptly nicknamed Bogdog, gets his clumsy mitts on yet another masterpiece of world drama... His one quality is a certain crude vigour... What's particularly irksome here

is that all the japes and wizard whizzes are so dreadfully familiar... One's knee positively itches for Bogdanov's groin... But then suffering is what this Faust is all about. The cast suffer, the audience suffer, and Goethe suffers most of all as this buffoon of a director wrecks havoc on a classic.

Michael Billington
The Guardian
A powerful theatrical event: proof that the RSC is often at its best when dealing with the impossible... a long day is sustained by Bogdanov's visual inventiveness... but Goethe's huge epic, although subjected to critical re-evaluation, is

still presented with undeniable panache.

Michael Coveney
The Observer
Dull it ain't. Great, neither. A bit of a knees-up. Good use of trapezes... Bogdanov's rather old-fashioned stream of sight-gagging and actors-in-the-audience wears you down.

John Peter
Sunday Times
This is a riveting, exciting and extraordinarily uneven production. Bogdanov handles Faust's intricate

architecture scrupulously and masterfully... but he is also capable of the most barbarous vulgarities.

Benedict Nightingale
The Times
There were times when I caught myself wondering if I, too, had been stuck with the play for 50 years or so. The ending is silly, vulgar stuff, which momentarily makes you wonder if Bogdanov is reviving the play in order to mock it.

Paul Taylor
The Independent
Bogdanov's production shows what fluency can be achieved with trapezes, a tilting two-way mirror for supernatural visions... and a very active trap at the centre of the stage.

Sarah Henning
Financial Times
Michael Bogdanov rises to the challenge admirably, with a gleefully theatrical production...

Rate rise fear over prices

City pushes for dearer loans as Clarke shrugs off 'aberration'

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

THE Government was last night battling to stave off growing City demands for a fresh rise in interest rates after official data showed inflation at its highest for more than three years.

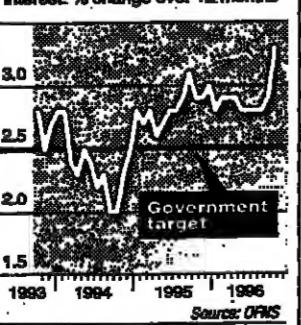
Starting surged on the foreign exchanges as dealers anticipated a call for dearer borrowing from the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, in the wake of the Budget.

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, shrugged off the increase in the underlying annual rate from 2.5 per cent to 3.3 per cent as a statistical aberration — as did the Prime Minister in Commons clashes with Labour leader Tony Blair. After pushing up rates by a quarter-point to six per cent a fortnight ago, the Government is eager to avoid a further increase when the poor state of public finances has precluded a generous pre-election Budget.

But with the underlying (excluding mortgages) inflation rate well above its 2.5 per cent target, the City is expecting Mr Clarke to come under strong pressure from Mr George when the two next meet on December 11.

After the figures were released, the Chancellor said:

Rising inflation



"As I have repeatedly demonstrated, policy is set to meet our inflation target. That is why we are sustaining our best performance on inflation in 50 years."

According to the Office for National Statistics, prices remained unchanged last month, but the annual rate went up because the sharp fall in the cost of living in October 1995 ceased to be included in the latest 12-month total. As a result, the all-items Retail Prices Index indicated that annual inflation rose from 2.1 per cent to 2.7 per cent in October, the largest monthly rise since August 1990, when the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait sent world oil prices soaring.

The 0.4 point increase in

Executives scoop £27m in utilities bonanza

continued from page 1

Officials said housing costs, rising petrol prices, and the slackening of the price war among insurance companies were the three main factors behind the rise in the annual rate last month. However, early Christmas discounts by off-licences, mid-season sales in stores selling household goods and cheaper leisure goods helped to partly offset the upward pressure on inflation.

Mr Blair told the Commons that the inflation rise should "set warning lights flashing". He asked the Prime Minister: "How do you square it with your promise, made just a few months ago, that you would meet your inflation target by the end of this year?"

"If your inflation figures were so good, why did interest rates have to go up?"

The Prime Minister said the Chancellor had raised interest rates "to prevent inflation rising, not as a result of the inflation that is there."

Recalling that inflation had peaked at 3.7 per cent under the last Labour government, he said: "What you cannot stomach is that the British economy is in better shape than any Labour Government has ever been able to put it, that they could not match the condition that it's in, and you will do everything you can to pursue grievance politics and damage the British economy in your own interest."

Mr Lang is under pressure to refer the bids by Nebraska-based CalEnergy and Virginian utility Dominion Resources to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to suppress further controversy in the run-up to the election.

Labour will claim these figures justify its plans for windfall taxes on the public utilities. Critics will also see the pay-offs as proof that the Government-backed Greenbury committee on executive pay has failed.

One company, Seaboard, awarded a total of more than 400,000 share options to five of its directors in June last year, despite the fact that the Greenbury committee was considering how to rein back the huge payouts arising from options.

Five months later this tranche of options alone made the directors up to £975,000 when the US utility Central and South West Corporation bid \$1.6 billion for Seaboard with the backing of the UK company board.

One electricity company sought to insulate its staff, including executives, from tax and national insurance on the hefty gains. Bought by Welsh Water and renamed Hydr, South Wales Electricity discloses that it set aside £5.7 million to meet those costs for holders of share options.

When white directors shun Hollywood and persist in making interesting, complex, thought-provoking films, they get totally undeserved Academy Awards. When Spike Lee does it, he gets dissed.

Joe Queenan on America's most difficult director

Friday Review cover story

Buying a computer for the first time or as a seasoned technology expert, decisions are always made by the head and the wallet and seldom the heart.

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4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Woman loses case against Lincoln dean

VERITY FREESTONE, the woman who alleged she had an affair with the Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, yesterday lost her right to pursue him for legal retribution in the county court.

Ski instructors win

THE European Commission has intervened to defend the rights of British ski instructors, ruling that a ban on them teaching on the French and Italian pistes is illegal.

Whitehall to monitor MI5

A WHITEHALL committee has been set up to monitor the performance of MI5. The unit — the Sub-Committee on Security Service Priorities and Performance follows a secret review of the work of the security and intelligence agencies conducted by Sir Michael Quinlan, former permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

Sir John Soane's expands

ONE of the most eccentric museums in the country, Sir John Soane's in London, has bought the Grade II listed house next door in Lincoln's Inn Fields with \$500,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Disaster rules ignored

FEW hospitals are complying with government guidelines on planning for disasters, researchers say today. The guidelines stipulate contingency plans needed in case of an air crash or similar disaster.

Living South Africa

THE Living South Africa Memorial, mentioned in a report about Jenny Joseph's poem, Warning, on October 12, is a British fund set up to support education for the living in memory of citizens of all races who died in apartheid-related violence.

Salvage on the Hanover

FOLLOWING our article "Silence is golden for diver given treasure ript" (October 28), the Receiver of Wrecks has asked us to point out that a recent meeting to discuss salvage due on the Hanover, which sank off Cornwall in 1763, dealt only with items already recovered.

Vice-chancellors claim a disaffected underclass will be created if universities fail to expand intake

Call for 25pc more students

THE Government must lift its artificial ceiling on numbers of students at university or risk the creation of an unstable society with a disaffected and disenfranchised underclass unable to break through into the high-skill jobs, vice-chancellors warned yesterday.

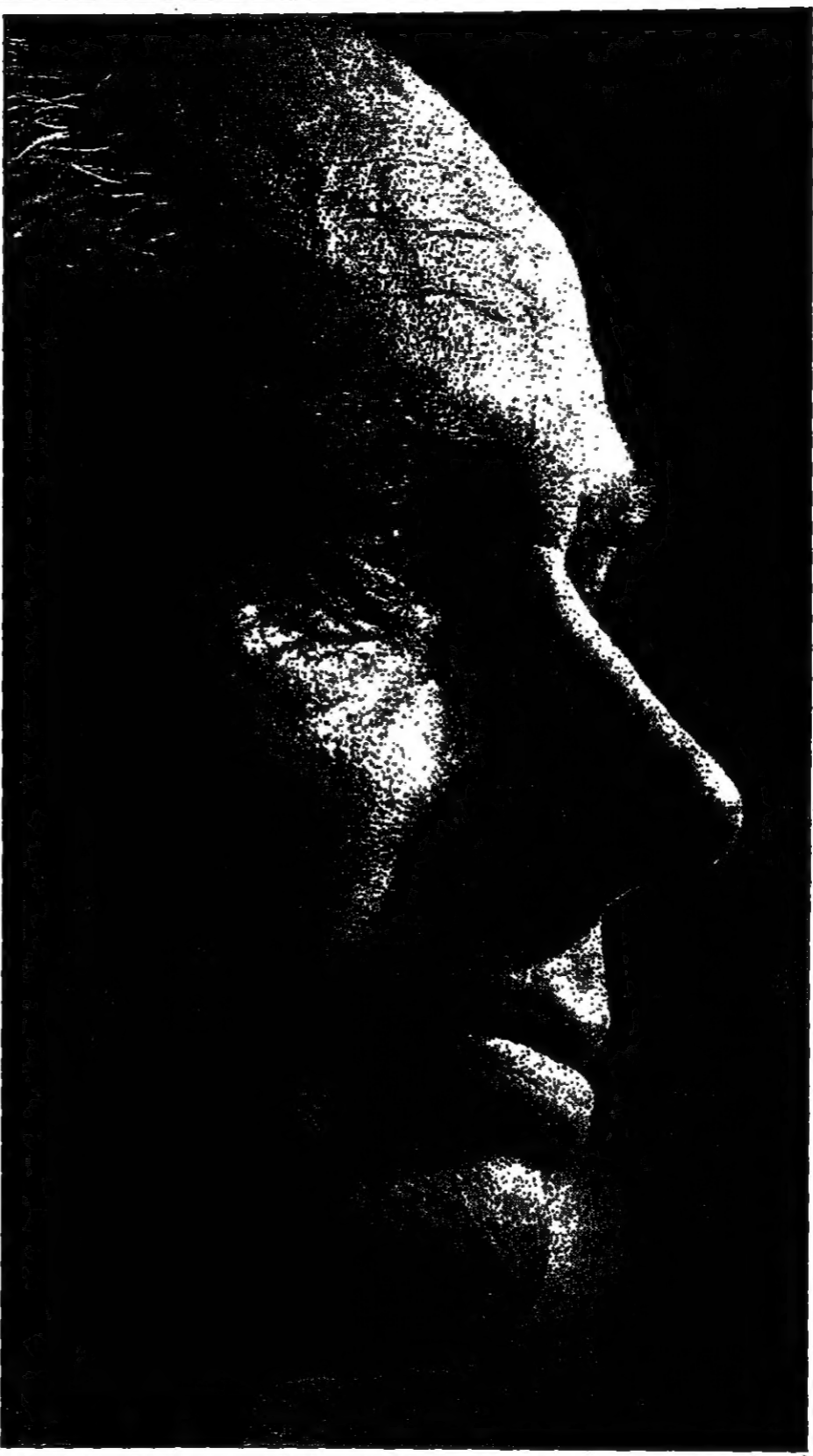
If the sector expanded to meet demand, there would be a funding shortfall of \$5.8 billion by 2005/06. The state, employers and graduates would all have to pay more to maintain the quality of higher education.

No letters after their names, but they're not short of kudos or cash

JOHN Major can hardly be categorised as a member of the educational underclass which the vice-chancellors see as the fate of clever-enough people who do not manage to get to university, writes John Carol.

Surgeon with Aids virus gets clearance to operate

Friend Clouston SURGEON diagnosed as HIV positive will begin operating again by Christmas, although patients will be asked if they object, health chiefs said yesterday.



George Browning, a surgeon who has won his fight to be allowed to carry out operations two years after he was excluded from operating theatres

Infected health workers will be encouraged to disclose condition

are frightened," he said. Prof Browning appeared confident that his condition would not deter patients. "Over the last nine months I have been raising the question [with them] and I've been absolutely delighted with the response," he said.

1 in 10 women fight off HIV

SCIENTISTS are confirming today that some people appear to have a natural ability to fight off the Aids virus and remain free of illness despite being repeatedly exposed to it.

NHS trusts in deficit as executives take pay rise

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent MORE than half all NHS trusts last year failed in their duty to achieve their financial targets and almost one in five returned a deficit, figures released today show.

Major rejects call for free vote on gun ban

David Mellor and Robert Hughes, Terry Dickson who was sacked on Wednesday as a parliamentary aide for his stance on the issue, and Hugh Dykes.

Two schoolgirls admit kicking teenager to death at fairground

Two schoolgirls yesterday admitted kicking to death a teenager who intervened to split up a fight at a fairground earlier this year.

The Open University PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES MSc in Computing through open learning

الجامعة المفتوحة

Kamal Ahmed and Roy Greenslade on Fergie book tussle

Murky tabloid battle for readers sees Express falling victim to a right royal sting



The Duchess of York brandishing a copy of her autobiography, My Story, which was officially published in Britain yesterday

AS THE Duchess of York poured her heart out to the BBC's Today programme yesterday, the spotlight was finally moving off her and on to even murkier affairs...

Information by obtaining a copy of the book, in breach of copyright agreements signed with the Mail...

and the journalist was ordered to fly to London with the originals which he was carrying in a brown suitcase...

private life became public. The programme gave the item 20 minutes after its 8.10am news, a slot more usually reserved for the Prime Minister or world leaders...

Duchess may not be able to stop spending money on herself

SHE has finally admitted it. In her interview on the BBC's Today programme yesterday the Duchess of York said she was addicted to shopping...

Abduction warning for schools

EDUCATION officials in Lincolnshire yesterday confirmed they had issued a warning to all their schools about a self-confessed child abductor who they believe could pose a risk to pupils...

Couple and boys found dead

THE bodies of a married couple and three boys, aged six, 10 and 15, may have lain undiscovered for up to 48 hours, police said yesterday...

Advertisement for Eagle Star Direct insurance, featuring a large image of a silver eagle statue and text: 'OR talk to insurance people who treat you like an individual. Interested? Call 0800 333 800 for a motor or home quote.'

Grief blamed by viscount for drink driving. VISCOUNT Weymouth, heir to the Marquess of Bath, yesterday blamed his drink driving on his grief after the death of his girlfriend in a terrorist bomb attack in London...

Advertisement for Crown Direct Pentium P133 and Laser Printer, featuring the text: 'PENTIUM P133 AND LASER PRINTER all together now for only £999 + VAT OR JUST £150 DEPOSIT WITH NOTHING MORE TO PAY UNTIL MARCH 1997'.

Advertisement for Vtech Pentium P133 PC and Texas Instruments MicroLaser Win/4 laser printer, featuring the text: 'Just the job for home or at the office! Vtech Pentium P133 PC with 2x Speed CD ROM...'

Dangers of peacekeeping in Zaire

Rebels without a united cause

Chris McGreal in Goma reports on the threat to the Western aid mission from the various military factions

WHEN British and American troops descend on eastern Zaire they will encounter an array of rebel groups whose leaders may claim unity but which are as fractured as those they are fighting.

On the one side is a rebel alliance which gathers up long dormant guerrilla groups with roots in post-independence nationalist and Marxist stirrings; Zairean Tutsis driven to rebellion by state-sponsored persecution; and Rwandan soldiers.

On the other are the Hutu extremists who fled Rwanda two years ago, the Zairean military, which is an army only in name.

Thrown into the mix is a bizarre group of renegades who fight naked, believe they can turn bullets to water and who show no loyalty to any cause but their own.

Laurent Kabila, the guerrilla leader, draws together a jumble of uneasy partners under the umbrella of his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire. It has seized large parts of eastern Zaire, including the regional capital, Goma.

Mr Kabila's own movement, from the southern province of Shaba, figures prominently. So do guerrillas from neighbouring Kasai, led by André Kissasse Ngandu who is thought to be the alliance's military mind.

But there is little love lost between Shaba and Kasai after the ethnic cleansing of about 1 million Kasais from Shaba three years ago. And while both men say they have no intention of breaking up Zaire, support for insurgencies in each of their provinces has largely been driven by demands for secession.

The alliance also draws together guerrillas from the

border regions around Rwanda and Burundi, where the fighting began. Also included are the Banyamulenge — Zairean Tutsis who rebelled to defend themselves from state-sponsored persecution.

According to Mr Kabila, the murder and ethnic cleansing of the Banyamulenge provided the foundation for the uprising and his rebels' astonishing success in the past month. But he has his own reason to resent Zaire's Tutsis. Mr Kabila was a follower of the revolutionary Pierre Mulele at a time when the Banyamulenge were fighting in support of the Zairean government to crush his rebellion.

The uneasiness of the alliance can be seen in belated decision-making and contradictory statements. One group agrees to let aid in, another blocks it. Mr Kabila says the rebels will hit the Hutu militias in the camps, Mr Kissasse says not. Mr Kabila says he is in charge, Mr Kissasse hints otherwise.

On the roadblocks around Goma there are signs that it might be someone else altogether. The "rebels" in the smart uniforms carrying the best equipment often speak English. Some are Zairean Tutsis driven from their homes by Hutu militia attacks in the past two years who have been trained and turned around to invade their own country.

The English-speakers are almost certainly members of the Rwandan army who grew up as Tutsi exiles in neighbouring Uganda or Tanzania.

One young "rebel" at a roadblock insisted — in perfect English — he was born and bred in Goma. He did not speak a word of French, Zaire's national language.

Mr Kabila and the Rwandan government continue to deny any collaboration. There



Boats loaded with refugees fleeing fighting arrive in Goma yesterday. Many others are waiting to leave as local people try to find a safe place to live. PHOTOGRAPH: PETER ANDREWS

are few in either Rwanda or Zaire who believe them. Some wonder how, after so many years of obscurity, Mr Kabila has suddenly proven so successful. For others the decisive evidence is the nature of the rebels' campaign which has concentrated on clearing the Rwandan refugee camps and Hutu militias which have used them as a base for cross-border raids.

Mr Kissasse says the refugees brought it on themselves. "What concerns us is not the refugees but to liberate Zaire. The refugees are on our national territory. They're armed, they participated in the attacks. We have to defend ourselves," he argued.

Confronting the rebel alliance is an assortment of forces. The Zairean army gave up early on. With defeat

looming, it routinely looted what it could and ran.

The defeated Rwandan army and Hutu militia, the Interahamwe, which fled into Zaire two years ago, have proved more resilient. Driven by a belief that they could one day reconquer their homeland, they have spawned new allies in Zaire.

One Hutu militia group — innocuously called the Vi-

runga Farmers and Herders Association — was founded in 1989 by Zaire's current education minister. The association targeted Zairean Tutsis, accusing them of being foreigners in an attempt to drive them from valuable land. When the Rwandan Hutu extremists fled into Zaire two years ago, the association came into its own. It joined the Interahamwe's huge eth-

nic cleansing of the Masasi region, north-west of Goma.

Thrown into the mix are the May May, who fight anyone who gets in the way of their pursuit of land. Their ideological roots are embedded in Mr Mulele's rebellion, but they have a strong faith in magic. May May recruits are tattooed to bolster their invincibility, they do not wash with soap and are forbidden

to have sex with women. Many fight naked or dressed with leaves. As they attack they shout "moy", Swahili for water, believing that it will turn enemy bullets to water.

They have shown little sympathy for the rebel alliance and its foreign allies.

Leader comment, page 8; No bloodless miracle, page 9

Unpopular French could court more trouble

Alex Duval Smith in Paris reports on concern that their presence could threaten the safety of soldiers from other countries

FRANCE'S political and military record in Zaire and Rwanda means its peacekeepers will be targets of rebel fire and their presence could endanger the lives of troops from other countries, a high-ranking French military source admitted yesterday.

As a foreign ministry official indicated that France was offering between 1,500 and 2,000 troops to the multinational force, it became clear that military top brass have been lobbying for a smaller French contingent.

The high-ranking source said that while the French military "has nothing to be ashamed of" in the region, France is perceived as a supporter of Hutu extremists. "The Rwandans do not want us there, the Tutsi rebels have declared us a target... and we are in far greater danger than troops from other countries," he said.

He conceded that France "will be blamed if there are deaths among other peacekeepers or if the operation is discredited" and added that peacekeepers from African

countries which have close links with France — such as Senegal and Mali — could also become targets.

France has stronger political and industrial links with Zaire than with any other major African nation and its president, Mobutu Sese Seko, spends most of his time on the French Riviera.

Human Rights Watch, an international watchdog, believes that any other French soldiers will be assigned to filling in pot-holes while the US base themselves at Goma and Entebbe," said one military source. "Uganda is a no-go area for France."

French military personnel could, however, play a crucial role in future negotiations over aid routes. UN food aid workers agree that to run convoys from Kisangani would be a logistical nightmare. The best route is thought to be through the rebel-held Kivu region.

While Kinshasa refuses to negotiate with these rebels because they are in breach of Zairean sovereignty, it is possible that France can put pressure on them to allow aid through.

But France's position remains complicated even when it is acting under an international banner. On Wednesday, a convoy from Médecins Sans Frontières came under fire from pro-Rwandan rebels when it attempted to enter Bukavu in Zaire.

ventionist Africa policy have been allayed by the decision to place the multinational force under Canadian command — but only partially.

"There is a danger that French soldiers will be assigned to filling in pot-holes while the US base themselves at Goma and Entebbe," said one military source. "Uganda is a no-go area for France."

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British troops may be used to disarm militias

Ewan MacAskill and David Fairhall

THE British government indicated yesterday it may be prepared to go further than the US by allowing troops to be used to disarm militias in Zaire.

While the US has ruled out disarming the Interahamwe and said its troops will be confined to humanitarian aid, the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, told the Commons yesterday he was open-minded about action against the militias.

A British reconnaissance force of about 40 is to be sent to Zaire today to assess conditions on the ground before a decision is made on sending in a further force of battalion strength, about 1,000, composed of paratroopers and commandos.

The 45 Commando, 1st Paratroops and 5 Airborne headquarters were put on increased alert for deployment yesterday.

Mr Portillo said: "The House will rightly ask why

Britain should become involved in a place far from our country and where no vital national interest is engaged. Because we are a civilised nation."

Mr Major, at Prime Minister's Question Time, said that while there was concern, there was also a strong moral obligation on Western governments to help.

protect itself against potentially hostile militias.

Mr Portillo set out the conditions for the mission: "That the objectives are clear and attainable; the prospects of handing on to a follow-up force are good; command and control are clear; and that British forces are sufficient and well enough armed to protect themselves and to save lives."

The mood in the Commons on both sides was restrained, with concern expressed primarily about the benefits of proving safe for four months only to see a return to anarchy.

British defence planners believe that at least two lessons have been learned from the Rwandan operation. The multinational force should have a clear command structure, in this case headed by the Canadians (with subordinate contingents offered by the US, Britain, France, Italy and Holland) and there should be no need to refer back constantly to the UN. This will not be a "blue helmet" operation, though it is responding to a UN resolution.

'The House will rightly ask why Britain should become involved'

The reconnaissance team has been asked to report back by early next week on key questions posed yesterday by Mr Portillo in a statement to the Commons: what force is needed to secure an entry airfield; how many troops will then be required to reach outlying areas in need of aid; and what equipment and support must the force be given to

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Memories of Congo disaster haunt mission

Robert Reid in New York

THE United Nations tried intervention in Zaire 26 years ago, and the organisation suffered 250 deaths, including that of its secretary-general.

When the peacekeepers left four years later, the country was still unstable and governed by some of the same people who were in charge when they arrived.

That bloody experience in what was then known as the Congo taught a generation of future UN leaders the risks of trying to impose peace, and sparked a long-standing reluctance to use force.

The peacekeepers were sent in July 1960 to quell unrest that broke out as Belgian colonial rule ended.

At the time, it was the largest and most difficult peacekeeping operation the UN had mounted. It would not attempt another such mission until 1991, when it intervened in the Balkans.

The Congo crisis erupted a few days after Belgium granted independence on June 30, 1960. African troops mutinied against

their Belgian officers and went on the rampage in the capital Leopoldville, now called Kinshasa.

Faced with chaos, the new prime minister, Patrice Lumumba, fired the Belgian officers and appointed a former journalist, Joseph Mobutu, as army chief of staff. Known as Mobutu Sese Seko, he is now president but has been in Europe for months undergoing cancer treatment.

Died... Ex-prime minister Patrice Lumumba was executed by Mobutu's men.

Died... Wanted in Congo for treason, Moïse Tshombe did not survive jail in Algeria.

Died... A plane crash claimed Dag Hammarskjöld, the UN secretary-general.

under house arrest since the coup, slipped away from UN guards and tried to reach his base in a provincial town. But he was captured by Mr Mobutu's forces and executed a few months later. Six countries withdrew their troops in protest.

Six months into the mission, the Security Council for the first time authorised troops to use force if necessary to prevent civil war.

Slowly, they managed to disarm most groups, except the Katanga rebels led by Moïse Tshombe. The UN launched attacks to bring Katanga under government control.

But the fighting alarmed powerful governments, which began pressuring Hammarskjöld to negotiate an end to the conflict. On September 17 1961 he flew to Ndola in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia, to meet Tshombe. But he was killed when his plane crashed near Ndola airport.

The war between the United Nations and Katanga rebels dragged on until Tshombe surrendered on January 17 1963. UN troops finally left the country in June 1964. — AP.

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Died... A plane crash claimed Dag Hammarskjöld, the UN secretary-general.

Belgian troops flew to the capital and restored order. But hatred for the Belgians was so intense that the UN agreed on July 14 1960 to send troops to replace them.

The mission was beset by problems from the beginning. A few days before the UN approved the force, the south-eastern province of Katanga (now called Shaba) rebelled and declared independence.

Thirty countries offered a

total of 19,800 troops. But many lacked equipment, weapons and ammunition. In the midst of the confusion, Mr Mobutu staged a coup against Lumumba and the president, Joseph Kasavubu, and installed a military junta.

The Soviet Union, which supported Lumumba, denounced the UN operation and demanded that the secretary-general, Dag Hammarskjöld, resign.

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Spy dispute threatens to boil over

David Hoarst in Moscow

RUSSIA yesterday demanded the immediate and unconditional release of a former KGB agent arrested in New York last month, saying the spy now could seriously threaten relations between Moscow and Washington.

The dispute over the arrest of Vladimir Galkin at Kennedy Airport in New York on October 29 has escalated from routine threats of retaliation to a major diplomatic offensive directed by the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, a former spymaster.

The Russians claim Mr Galkin, who made no secret of the fact that he was a Russian intelligence agent until 1992, was entrapped by the FBI.

According to the charges he faces in a federal court in Massachusetts, Mr Galkin offered an employee of the Data General Corporation \$30,000 (£20,000) for three reports on conferences and symposiums about the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Mr Galkin was working with an Indian national, Aluru Prasad, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who was charged last year with trying to obtain classified documents. Mr Prasad's case ended in a mistrial and he will appear in court again next month.

What has particularly incensed Moscow is that Mr Galkin, now a businessman,

made an open declaration of his former profession to the US consulate in Moscow and received a visa on the same day — October 24 — that the arrest warrant for him was issued in New York. The FBI is required to sign all visa applications by former KGB agents.

The Service of Foreign Reconnaissance (SVR), the successor to the First Directorate of the KGB, says Mr Galkin's arrest breaks a gentlemen's agreement between the spy networks of the former cold war adversaries not to prosecute each other's agents for deeds committed before the collapse of communism. But both the state department and the justice department in Washington have denied the existence of any such agreement.

At first the SVR said nothing, hoping to obtain Mr Galkin's release through diplomatic channels. Then it was suggested that the Russian embassy in Washington would stand bail for Mr Galkin. Now Russia is demanding nothing less than a full retraction from the justice department and is calling for all charges against Mr Galkin to be dropped.

Mr Galkin's wife, Svetlana, made an appeal on Wednesday for intervention from the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. "My husband always honestly fulfilled his duty to the motherland. That is precisely what the American special services are accusing him of," she said.



Water rushed down the side of the dam at the Verzasca storage lake, Ticino canton, southern Switzerland, where safety outlets had to be opened to prevent flooding after heavy rains in recent days raised the level of the lake. PHOTOGRAPH BY KARL MATTHEIS

Serb's box-office hit addresses war guilt

Julian Burger in Belgrade

THE film *Lepa Sela, Lepo Gore*, which will be premiered in Britain on Wednesday at the London Film Festival, confronts the raw ugliness of the Bosnian conflict. The title means Pretty Village, Pretty Flame — an observation made by a member of a Serb volunteer gang as they burn, loot and murder their way across Bosnia in spring 1992.

The film, directed by Serb Srdjan Dragojevic, aged 33, has filled Belgrade cinemas with crowds of cynical and war-weary Yugoslav youth. It was largely ignored by the state, but the government made no effort to hinder its triumphal progress across the country and subsequent worldwide release.

"We expected political problems but they have not happened, because the film got so popular here. It would be really dumb for the authorities to try to stop people seeing it," said Dragan Bjelogrić, who stars as Milan, a young Bosnian Serb who is numbed by his side's atrocities but driven on by spite after his mother is killed by Muslims.

The film has been so successful, he said, because Serbs are no longer prepared to accept the patriotic line that an honourable war was fought to end a shallow chauvinism which drove them to fight their neighbours.

At one point, Gavra, a burly unreconstructed nationalist, pulls out a fork, and proudly declares that culture was being used at the Serb court while the rest of Europe and America were eating with their hands. Bookish Petar tells Gavra to shut up, pointing out: "It's your fork that got us into this mess in the first place."

It is an allegorical tale, loosely based on a true story, about a group of Serb

soldiers trapped in a tunnel for eight days during the early days of the war. The film goes back in time to watch the tunnel being opened by socialist apparatchiks with the accompaniment of brass bands and speeches on brotherhood and unity — the increasingly empty rhetoric beneath which ethnic tensions were submerged.

Along with the Titoist dream, the tunnel gradually falls into disrepair watched by Milan and Halli (a Muslim) who grow up as

"People are telling me that it is a hard film to watch, but a necessary one"

friends nearby. Neither dares to enter believing that a monster lives inside.

When war breaks out, they find themselves on opposite sides. Milan is trapped in the tunnel with his Serb marauders and an American journalist, Halli and his Muslim troops have them surrounded. Before they are picked off one by one, the Serbs have time to ponder the shallow chauvinism which drove them to fight their neighbours.

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No one has dared to show

the film in Zagreb or Sarajevo, where wounds are still raw. Benjamin Filipovic, a Muslim film-maker, praised it as "great cinema", but argued that it was made by Serbs for Serbs.

Critics say it ducks the question of who started the war, assigning responsibility to the metaphorical monster of nationalism lurking in Tito's tunnel.

This moral ambivalence arguably resembles the new line on the war taking shape in Belgrade and may explain why the film emerged unopposed by the censors, and why it was supported by the mayor of Visegrad, a Serb-held Bosnian town which was the scene of atrocities against Muslims in 1992.

A mosque was needed for one scene, but all the mosques in the Visegrad area had been blown up in ethnic cleansing. The crew had to build a mock-up, provoking outrage among the local Serbs until they were assured it would be burned down in the film.

The combat scenes were shot near Visegrad in spring 1995 with Serb troops — who appear as extras — were preparing for a final assault on nearby Muslim enclaves.

"The film says we are all bad guys, let's forget about it and go for a beer together," Mr Filipovic said. "So, just because it is a well-made and artistic film, it is as dangerous as a whole brigade."

The United States could provide up to a third of a 30,000-strong peacekeeping force to remain in Bosnia next year, Nato's secretary-general, Javier Solana, said yesterday after meeting the vice-president. At Gore,

Crash flight cargo pilot cited as 'first-class'

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

THE Kazakh pilot of the cargo plane that crashed into a Saudi jumbo jet was a "first class" flier who was being made a scapegoat for the world's worst mid-air collision, a Russian diplomat said yesterday.

Sergal Kamenev, who is helping embassy officials from the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan investigating Tuesday's disaster near New Delhi, said the pilot, 39, had angrily defended the pilot's record. He said the pilot had logged hundreds of flights and was fluent in English.

"The head of the crew, Cherepanov, is a pilot of the first class. He made approximately 14 trips just to India, we discovered from the

log book," Mr Kamenev said. "It is not possible to consider him as a reason for the air crash, according to our investigations, the equipment of the Indira Gandhi International Airport has no radar station. It is not enough."

Indian civil aviation officials have tried to pin the disaster on a communications failure with the Kazakh pilot, or equipment failure on a poorly maintained plane. "It is 100 per cent pilot error," said S. S. Panesar, director of flight safety at Indian Airlines. "We pilots do make mistakes sometimes."

The real cause of the disaster will not be known until the judicial inquiry completes its task in two weeks.

The first funerals were held for 91 crash victims yesterday, presided over by Muslim, Hindu and Christian clergy, in Charhki Dabri, the

closest town to the barren fields where both aircraft came down in burning chunks of rubble.

Among them was Adila Fatima, aged four months, was buried alone, in a tiny plot alongside two 40ft-foot trenches in the town's Muslim graveyard.

Most of the Indian passengers were Muslim, according to the names on the passenger list. Relatives of those whose bodies have not been identified want to delay the cremations so they may provide a funeral according to Islamic rites. Hindus cremate their dead, while Muslims bury theirs.

The bodies of the 39 victims aboard the Kazakh flight, mainly Kyrgyz nationals, are to be flown to Chirchik in Kazakhstan in zinc boxes for identification and funeral rites.

Asian revellers keep it strictly ballroom

Seeth Mydans in Manila

WHAT was the former Senegal's first lady, Fatick Sagasig, doing on the dance floor of Manila's Inter-Continental Hotel, twirling a woman who is not his wife through the rapid paces of a tango?

"It's exquisite!" exclaimed the former senator, once the chief spokesman for Corazon Aquino during her improbable rise to the presidency of the Philippines. "It's good clean fun and we've lost a lot of weight."

Mr Sagasig's wife, Dulce, who like her husband is in her 50s, was not far away, gliding across the floor with a man half her age, another addict of a ballroom dancing craze sweeping through Asia. "My wife loves me a million more times when I take her out dancing," Mr Sagasig said. "But we rarely dance with each other: we both have excellent dance instructors."

No one seems sure how the ballroom dancing fad began, but in the last two or three years it has undergone regional adaptations, taking on different forms in various countries as it works its way into the dominant local culture, adapted itself around the colour of different national cultures and including everything from the tango to the swing.

In China, people hop off their bicycles on the way to work to do a few dance turns among early-morning practitioners of tai chi in Beijing parks and on the Shanghai Bund. The China Daily recently suggested that dance

classes could divert young people from premarital sex.

Millions dance in Japan — where ballroom dancing has been regimented into a 12-tier ranking system — inspired by a sentimental Japanese movie about an office worker who finds meaning in his drab life on the dance floor.

Dancing comes with dim sum at Ocean City Restaurant in Hong Kong and draws celebrities to Paul Bishop's Academy of Dance.

In Thailand the venue is Lumpini Park in Bangkok, where there is already talk of medals at the Olympic Games

It is liberated role reversal in a land where men more often play hooky to visit their mistresses

In 2000, when ballroom dancing will be a new event.

And in Singapore, the authorities have added ballroom dancing to wine tasting and tennis as an appropriate activity for government-run matchmaking clubs.

But nowhere is ballroom dancing bigger than in the Philippines, where "people power" and coup attempts are things of the past. Morning, afternoon and evening in discos, living rooms and stadiums, Filipinos are dancing. They gather under the palm trees in Luneta Park when the born-again Christians are not holding a rally.

At the Western Police District, officers have even been ordered to dance to keep fit — and they frolic through the headquarters with their pistols at their belts. But ballroom dancing is biggest here among middle-aged and elderly women who leave their husbands at home — sometimes surreptitiously — to samba and jive.

It has spawned the fast-expanding profession of dance instructor, mostly among athletic young men who carry beepers and maintain stables of loyal clients.

In the early days, when the respectability of their pastime was still in question, the rich matrons of the Sparklers Society at the exclusive Polo Club introduced their dance escorts as their attorneys, and the term stuck. Ballrooms were filled with middle-aged women swooping and dipping into the arms of their young attorneys.

Now everybody does it, and the dance instructors are known everywhere by straightforward initials, Dis. Female Dis are available as well, mainly for liberated men like Mr Sagasig who accompany their wives to the ballroom.

Throughout the country, discos and nightclubs have converted to ballroom dance spots, and many of them have afternoon hours for those wives who slip out to "go shopping" and must be home in time to make dinner.

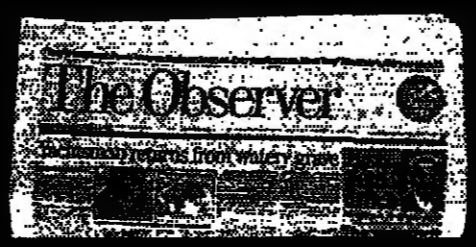
For once it is a liberated role reversal in a country where men often play hooky to visit their mistresses. And the excuses tend to be the same: a birthday, a wedding, a wake. —New York Times.

World leaders

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The Guardian
The Observer



Stumbling into Zaire

Africa must help to solve its own problems

ZAIRE'S escalating humanitarian crisis has hit the headlines again because Bill Clinton's tentative "yes" to a multinational force has been followed by a solemn pledge from Britain and a dozen other countries already prepared to serve under Canadian command. Hectic diplomatic activity can be expected over the next few days as the force is cobbled together. Many questions remain about its mandate and size, and the only certainty is over what most governments involved are so far insisting they will not do: confront and disarm the extremist Hutu interahamwe militiamen holding hundreds of thousands of their fellow-countrymen hostage in the disease-ridden refugee camps of eastern Zaire.

Mr Clinton's position is unlikely to change: the US, without which there would be no intervention at all, is still traumatised by the experience of Somalia and reluctant to be sucked into any central African "quagmire" when there is no "strategic" interest at stake: its spy satellites do not even routinely pass over the Great Lakes region, so there is real ignorance in western capitals about exactly what is happening on the harsh volcanic terrain. What is clear is that the interahamwe — who carried out the 1994 Rwandan genocide, and yesterday vowed to fight foreign troops — cannot be ignored. One answer could be for a multinational contingent larger than the 10,000-20,000 strong force under discussion and more ambitious plans than securing Goma airport and re-establishing security along highways which could then be used to deliver aid. But even if the Rwandan extremists could be disarmed and separated from the rest of the refugees, aid organizations would find it hard to avoid setting up permanent camps, deeper inside Zaire, like the ones that helped create the current crisis: it is a vicious circle

that could be impossible to break. Conscience and a sense of common humanity, as expressed by Michael Portillo in the Commons yesterday, are not bad motives. Catherine Bertini, of the World Food Programme warned this week that within a month 80,000 children in eastern Zaire will die, 50,000 more children suffer severe malnutrition and 75,000 more succumb to dysentery and cholera. But she also made clear that without separating "the bad guys with the guns from the people who need to live today," little can improve. Perhaps it is compassion fatigue, perhaps just the relative lack of access for TV cameras, but public outrage does not seem to be driving this crisis as it has previous ones. Yet governments which scorned the "something must be done brigade" over Bosnia seem to be stumbling into something they have not thought through, despite insisting on the need to avoid an open-ended and ill-defined mission.

Other problems are secondary: some mourn the merely supporting role being played by the United Nations as yet another multi-national coalition lurches into action — even though some participants, especially France, will not be welcomed by Africans whatever colour their helmets. The four months allowed by the US and Britain may turn out to be far too short a time to make a real difference: this will not be just a quick fix to re-establish the food chain. It is an ironic coincidence that this force is being born exactly as many of the governments involved haggle over a post-Nato follow-on to keep the shaky peace in Bosnia. It is hard to see clearly in the confusion of this appalling and complex crisis, but one positive by-product could be a greater role for Africa, especially post-apartheid South Africa, in solving the problems of a continent whose prospects have rarely seemed so dark.

Aiming for the wrong target

The inflation worth fretting over is the rise of the pound

THE IDEA that yesterday's inflation figures are proof of a fresh surge of inflation fully justifying the decision to raise interest rates is ridiculous. Sure, the statistics — showing a rise from 2.1 to 2.7 per cent in the annual rate during October — give pause for thought; but only a very short pause. Inflation in October was actually zero. Prices did not increase at all — hardly a moment of crisis. The annual increase is explained by a fall of 0.53 per cent at the same time last year which affected the 12-monthly comparison. If there is a price explosion where is it coming from? During the past year leisure goods, clothing, household services and fuel and light have all increased by one per cent or less (and in the case of clothing there was a decline). Food rose by only 2 per cent. The only large increases (6 to 7 per cent) were in tobacco and motoring, both affected by budget increases in excise duties. Average earnings are rising at 4 per cent, only 0.35 per cent higher than two years ago — hardly volcanic considering that the economy has been expanding for several years and ought to have been generating more incomes (not least through increased overtime working). Looking ahead the main worry is a rise of 44 per cent in crude oil during the past year. But the index of input prices (which includes oil) actually fell by two per cent over the year. Perhaps the Chancellor should just keep quiet about the oil rise while pocketing the increased tax revenues.

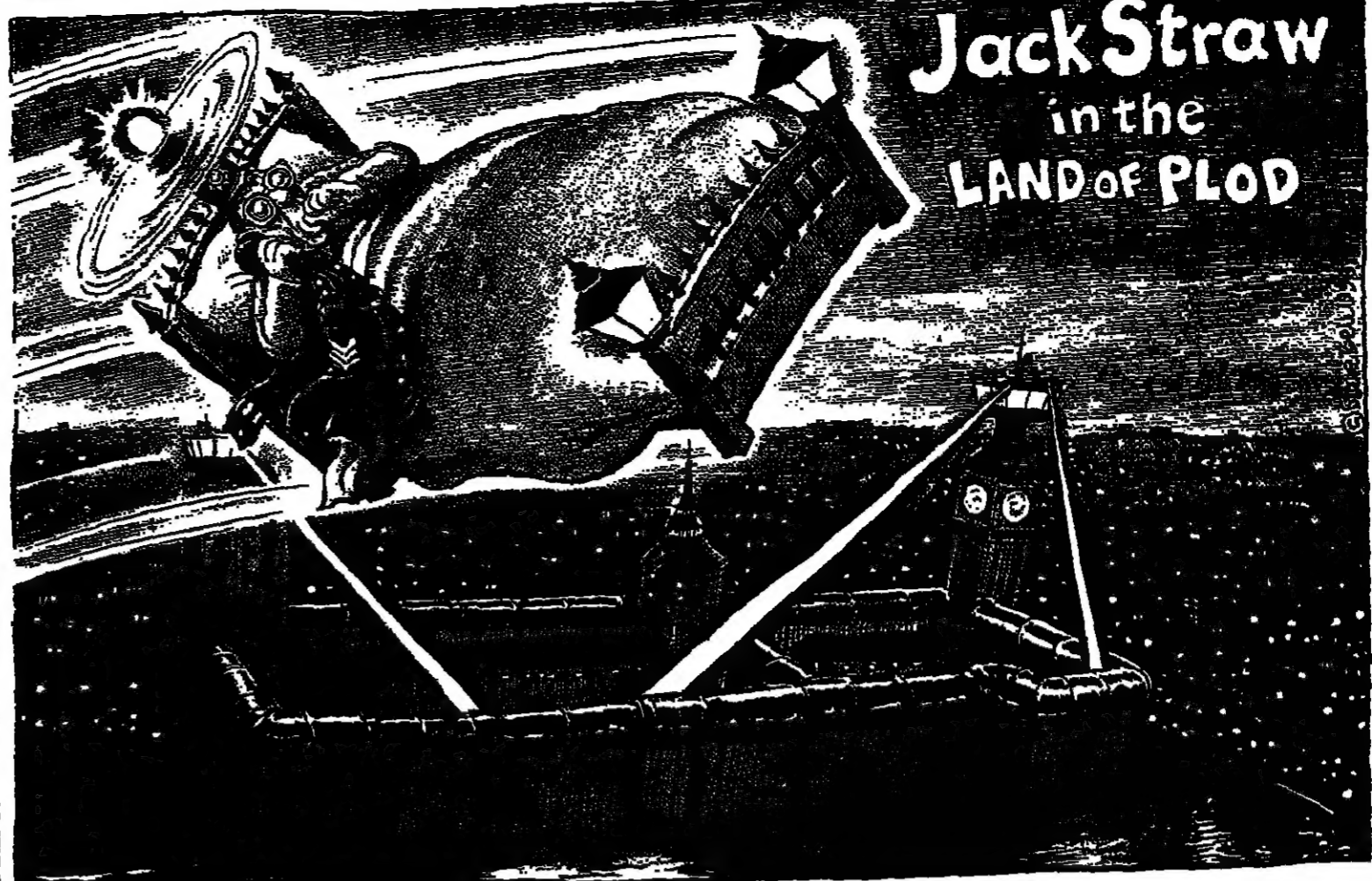
This is not to say that the situation isn't worrying because it is. It is beginning to look very worrying indeed. Not because of inflation but because of the Government's perverse reaction to what is happening. The pound has been rising strongly in recent months partly because sterling is regarded as a bit of a safe-haven currency and partly in expectation of higher interest rates. The Chancellor — against his better judgment — obliged this month with a rise which the international community regards as the first of a series. So money is piling into sterling with the result that the pound has now risen by 9.5 per cent against other currencies since the first week of August, thereby reversing much of the gain in competitiveness since Black Wednesday in 1992. If this rise had been backed by an improvement in our competitiveness it would be welcome. But it is not. Our inflation rate, although not worrying, has been rising faster than most of our competitors without any offsetting rise in productivity. Wage costs per unit of output are increasing by 4.5 per cent a year in manufacturing — mainly because output hasn't yet revived. Nor will it if the Government acquiesces in the unjustified rise in sterling which will prevent industry from competing at home and abroad. We are in danger of running into a sterling crisis-in-reverse. The Chancellor could — and should — stop all this in its tracks by reversing his interest rate policy.

Reds in their beds

Labour has a bedtime policy: now it is lying in it

SHADOW home secretary Jack Straw is anxious to foster a debate about the time that children go to bed. Good. It's time that politicians started facing up to real issues. But where exactly does New Labour stand on the question of the great British bedtime? Here things are less clear. Mr Straw is good at producing sound bites about the need for public discussion but he is much less bold when it comes to details. Mr Straw admits that until he was ten he used to have to climb the wooden hill to Bedfordshire at 8pm, although he remained active under the covers — listening to Hancock's Half Hour he says. But he absolutely refuses to be drawn on New Labour's detailed bedtime plans. The party's focus groups are apparently unhappy about going to bed early, so until the election no time will be mentioned. Only after Labour gets into office and examines the bedtime it has inherited from the Conservatives

will there be a definite commitment to an actual bedtime. And even then there is no promise of legislation. For true socialists this is ominously familiar. It suggests that though Labour is committed in principle to a radical bedtime policy, in practice there will still be one bedtime for the privileged and another for the rest of us. Harriet Harman has already hinted that she will send her children to bed at a time of her own choosing, irrespective of party policy, and Tony Blair's office is promising he will ignore a conference commitment to a specific figure. There is a further danger that Labour will talk tough about bedtime but capitulate to a Brussels diktat. A European bedtime directive, riding roughshod over the sovereignty of British parents and imposing Spanish-style late bedtimes on British children, cannot be ruled out. Surely Labour can tell the voters a better bedtime story than this?



Letters to the Editor

On monetary disunion

ONCE again you dredge up that old-fashioned and ambiguous concept, "sovereignty" (Sceptics in the cold over EMU, November 13). The fundamental issue posed by EMU is the diminution of democracy and the powers of democratic governments which it entails.

A single European currency would mean the transfer from a democratically elected British government to a Central Bank of the power to set interest rates, to control the money supply and to pursue price stability. The government would also lose the power to adjust the parity of its currency and face severe limitations on its power of public borrowing.

Those who support the principle of a single currency are implicitly asserting that the transferred powers are too fundamental to the working of a competitive market economy and too important to be entrusted to democracy.

It is surprising that we have not heard more about the need to ensure that the powers of the new institutions are exercised in a way that is consistent with the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

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Striking a few more blows in the continuing battle of the sexes

CATHERINE Bennett's article on wife-beating (Commentary, November 13) misses the point: domestic violence is unacceptable not because police or social workers might enter a woman's house, uninvited, but because domestic violence is a crime of assault against women.

Many women simply do not have the economic resources just to walk out of violent relationships. The few women's refuges that exist are underfunded and overstretched. The shortage of council housing means that women looking for temporary accommodation are often offered bed-and-breakfast. If the man is also the breadwinner, even women from wealthy families may not have enough of their own money just to walk out.

Why Sheryl Gascoigne has not prosecuted her husband is entirely her business. However, public opinion about Gazza is not as clear-cut as Catherine Bennett makes out: despite being picked for the England squad, he was booed by Glasgow Rangers fans after the revelations. (Cllr) Liz Davies, Inlington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD.

WHEN argues that because no statistics have been gathered to measure the extent of female-perpetrated domestic violence, then it does not exist. Thirty years ago, no data existed which showed the extent or even existence of "wife-battering". Today the law, the police, government welfare agencies and the public are sympathetic and responsive to battered women. Now, when our (and many others') research shows that it is men whose abuse and violence is being ignored and ridiculed by Whelan and other slaves to feminist dogma, it seems that it is too much to ask for society's tolerance in return. Will it take the same 30 years of suffering, injuries and death for people like Whelan to respond to the misery of "battered husbands"? (Dr) Sean Stitt, John Moores University, Barkhill Road, Liverpool L17 6BD.

After the crash

THE MID-AIR collision over New Delhi needs to be seen against the general attitude of apathy and lack of strategic planning which symbolises almost every governmental department in India.

With the opening up of the Indian economy it was inevitable that air traffic would increase. Yet the Ministry of Aviation took its time to recognise the problem, although the Commercial Pilot's Association has consistently pressed the Indian government to modernise the antiquated system of air-traffic control.

The government is right to order a judicial inquiry. It is not just a matter of subject to intense political pressure, which means that the real cause of the crash might never be made public. Rashid Shaha Bains, 34 Shere Road, Gants Hill, Essex.

BEFORE the break-up of the former Soviet Union, air pilots commonly did not fly outside Soviet boundaries. They therefore had no reason to learn English, the language of international aviation.

With the break-up and liberalisation of the former Soviet republics, these same pilots were now able to fly out of their national borders and across international airspace, but their understanding of English is often limited and sometimes non-existent. While technical difficulties may be to blame in this case, it is surprising that we have not heard more about such incidents. Alexander Weir, Villa Louvigny, L-2101 Luxembourg.

It's just another eating disorder

THE apparent increase in unruly behaviour among schoolchildren, while undoubtedly largely attributable to a number of factors — diet, Professor Stephen Schoenthaler, of California State University, has shown that a change from a junk-food to a nutritious diet significantly improved behaviour in a number of young-offender institutions.

Related to these findings are data from the Hyperactive Children's Support Group showing an improvement in the behaviour of a good percentage of children when certain colours, flavours or preservatives are removed from their diets.

Diets have certainly changed over the last 20 years. Many young people appear to subsist on a diet of Coca-Cola, chips, burgers, pizzas and sweets rich in additives. Few eat good amounts of fruit and vegetables, the sources of many vital micronutrients.

Such nutritious meals do not cost more to provide yet may have significant benefits in reducing unmanageable behaviour in our schools. (Dr) Margaret Rayman, Department of Chemistry, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 5XH.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number.

The BBC bosses write back

WE want to reassure all members of the creative community, including the Writers' Guild membership (Letters, November 13), that the formation of the two new Broadcast/Production directorates in the BBC is designed to strengthen our relationship with writers, artists and contributors, not to undermine it.

Our experience as channel controllers across BBC radio and television has proved to how difficult it can be to fulfil the increasingly complex functions of commissioning and scheduling — while still devoting sufficient creative energy to nurturing the talent base that serves BBC

programming. The BBC's programme achievements in recent years, acknowledged by both popular and critical acclaim, are a tribute to the flourishing partnership between the BBC and its contributors. We are determined to build on this. Digital technology will support this mission and divert us from it. Alan Yentob, Director of Programmes, Michael Jackson, Director of Television, Matthew Bannister, Director of Radio, BBC, Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ.

PLEASE include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: The gales last week brought down a venerable oak tree which fell across the lane to a local farm. The trunk had to be sawn and dragged aside and I was interested to see that in its rotted interior a hive of bees had once swarmed. Several old combs still hung perpendicular, fixed to the innards of the trunk. Bee combs consist of waxen cells constructed by the workers for storing honey and as cradles for the young. The deceased tree made me look afresh at others in our village, some of a prodigious height. There were several which lost rotted limbs in the storm. A local beekeeper has brought me a lot of honey this year, in bar frames so that I can fill my jars. Early collections were predominately from oil-seed rape fields and this honey cannot be kept beyond a month or two before becoming very waxy. When it becomes unsuitable for food or scones I use it to spread on roasting meat. None is wasted in this kitchen. Last month the door bell rang and there

was my bee man friend again, this time with two bar-frames of heather honey. "I have had them on the meers at Haple," he told me. Delicious golden combs, we have enjoyed them. When the beekeeper went up to collect his hives there was a small load only 2 inches long sitting in front of one of them, nicely placed to catch any bees coming out. "It was very sleepy and the stomach full of my bees." "Did he kill it? No, he said, he hadn't the heart to do that to a toad. He admitted that they are a pest when they find a hive, but they chiefly eat the old or diseased bees. It is not only toads which rob swarms but occasionally also hedgehogs. "Once my bees swarmed under, instead of inside the hive," my friend told me. "I saw a hedgehog wade straight into the swarm, sticking its head in the middle of a moving mass of bees and then backing out again, munching and swallowing. If I hadn't chased it off, the beastie would have had another go." VERONICA HEATH

Diary
John Duncan

MORE news of visionary Conservative marketing strategy. Less politically astute readers may not immediately understand why Elisabeth Peacock MP should send a questionnaire to her enthusiastic younger constituents that is completely illiterate, but we are on to you, Mrs Peacock. Total gibberish is the only language young people understand after 17 years of Conservative education policy. Constituents are asked to answer yes or no to several questions. Among them: "The introduction of more apprenticeships would be helpful." Is this some sort of scheme to train young people how to have relationships? It gets worse. "John Majors demands more sport in schools is a good idea." How many John Majors are there, Mrs P? Keep going. "More consideration and help should be given to the victims of crime. Crime and punishment. Courts should be tougher on offenders. Yes. No. No." Maybe it's supposed to be a poem? It was Mrs Peacock who believed that you should be thrashed before the Lottery programme on primetime TV. With the lead piping in the conservatory, no doubt. Mrs P will doubtless want to show her commitment to public flagging by agreeing to our request that she be spanked live on Blue Peter for her sins against the English language.

BLOYED by the massive reader response to our Lyme News diary buy-up we have negotiated a sensational royal exclusive. After long discussions with the Wessex Journalists' Association, the Queen Mother exposed only in the Diary. Here we go. "Gert (real name Edward) was a smart old gent with brilliant hair and just a hint of blusher on his wrinkled cheeks. His partner Daisy (real name Horace), was a roly-poly party who camped it up. For almost 30 years Gert had been an under-butler and Daisy a pastry chef at Clarence House. 'One hot summer night,' said Gert, 'the household was in bed. I was entertaining Horry in my pantry and all was right with the world. Bliss. Then the internal telephone shrilled. It was 2.15am. I picked up the receiver and of course it was the Queen Mum. 'I don't know what you two old queens are doing down there,' she said, 'but this old Queen can't sleep and is in urgent need of a very large gin and tonic.' 'Ma'am we salute you.'

Where do you reckon the intelligence services get all their best stuff from? Telephone taps? High-level informers? Secret agents? Or none of the above? It appears in fact that they spend their days reading the Big Issue. Following an entirely spoofed article by self-styled "art terrorist" Stewart Home describing how he was kidnapped and shown an arsenal of weapons at the house of KLF/Foundation money-burser-in-chief Jim Cauley, Mr Cauley's abode was put under police surveillance for several days. Not long after, it was raided by 30 officers who searched the place from top to bottom and found nothing except two Saracen armoured cars which Mr Cauley keeps in his garden so as not to be underdressed at local road protests. Both are properly taxed and insured. Mr Cauley was released without charge.

We can at last reveal the Home Office's most ambitious privatisation-of-prisons scheme yet. HMP Wormwood Scrubs is being turned into the world's first theme park and serving prisoners are being secretly recruited to help publicise the venture. The evidence? There is only one card available in the prison shop at the moment. The picture is of the Scrubs gate, with the slogan "Wish you were here" emblazoned across the top. Overleaf the small print states: "HMP Wormwood Scrubs. Spacious en suite accommodation. Full bar. Choice of menu (take it or leave it). Cheap rates (court warrant required only). Friendly staff." Book through your local police station.



When focus groups can be hocus-pocus

Commentary
Peter Preston

IT WAS, I thought, the deadliest insult of the week. "Oh, Tony Blair," said one powerhouse of the Conservative re-election campaign, "he's just a creature of the focus groups." With a curl of the lip and a simple, transferable wince. Time to get focused. You may, or may not, know much about focus groups. They're commonplace in the marketing world, the selling flavour of the decade. Newspapers (this one included) use them all the time. Political parties are naturally hooked. But most journalists — let alone readers or voters — have only the haziest notion of the facts behind the phenomenon.

These groups aren't conventional polls: no random samples of 1,500 interviewed over 24 hours. Polls, like newspaper circulation figures, can tell you broadly what's going on — and maybe give a few clues why. (It's the economy, stupid.) But focus groups have become the pro-active heart of the process. Each party has its target swing voters and its regional imperatives. It knows who it has to win over and who it has to stop being won over. Such people, selected with infinite care, make up the focus panels. They don't, in any meaningful sense, vote themselves: they discuss. A professional interlocutor plays master of ceremonies. The spin doctors huddle behind a two-way mirror. It's the mood of the meeting that counts.

You can, very straightforwardly, test posters or TV party political this way. New Labour, New Danger? Do the groups of swingers give it a thumbs up? Do they, lightly prompted, think that Clare Short was right — that there is indeed a palimpsest of sinister manipulators lurking behind Tony Blair's smile, ready to make a puppet of him in government? If they do, you may be on to something. In just the same way, wider policy areas can be probed from the polls and dissected. Take constitutional reform. Is it a wof for beyond Highgate? What does Newcastle think of it?

There's nothing rigidly scientific about this approach. Panels will sometimes agree spontaneously with a proposition, sometimes not. The messages are usually nuanced. But focus groups, carefully interpreted, can give a strong steer. They are the best stab at the future on offer. Here's one obvious fascination for politicians: a hotline to voters. But the game can be even more compulsive than that. You're playing it, but as the other side. Now the bank makes sense. Central Office, every time the fax chatters, can see where Labour feels potentially beleaguered (and vice-versa, of course). They can tell when a hard policy gets smoothed over, and they know why. The inner mechanics of the fight are laid bare to both. Group wisdom turns, within days, into revised campaign wisdom.

The focus may change Mr Blair's own focus in a trice. (They supposedly pulled the electoral hero of the hour, Bill Clinton, back from brink after brink.) I guess we've seen that happening over the past couple of weeks on the issue that only the Conservatives used to think was a winner: Europe. Robin Cook started the unannounced, letting his nascent scepticism show. The background spinners took up the theme. And lo! the European Court of Justice decision on working hours is greeted not with ringing endorsement, but with deflecting toughness which seems to suggest that Mr Major won't live up to his snarling rhetoric again. (True, but not entirely the point.) The Tory nightmare, down among the focus groupings, is that Mr Blair may

Jump Euro-ship altogether and sound as John Bullish next May as Mr Major himself intends to.

But the first question, of course, isn't where Labour is shifting to, but why it's shifting at all. Clear enough answer: because the groups — slightly backed by the big polls — are thinking differently about Europe. And it's not I think that the frailties of the whole exercise, the techniques and the messages drawn, begin to show. The European Court drama was setpiece staging. The Government knew it was going to lose. It let John Major and his secret advisers lose ahead of time to stoke up the tension. It assumed that, on this issue at least, the bulk of the press would come running. If the spectre of Brussels could somehow be yoked together with jobs and prosperity, then a vital trick might be turned. They'll have run that trick through their own focus panels.

Focus groups, interpreted, can give a strong steer. They are the best stab at the future on offer

els. Labour will have done the same. There are two things wrong with this. One is the assumption that the most of politics, as opposed to the packaging, can suitably be left to small groups of people sitting in non-smoking rooms. That unbalances the process. But the second glitch is even more pernicious. Focus groups are as much art as science. They are not ultimate juries. Their inevitably fudgy verdicts depend

lucely on the facts and propositions fed to them. Their findings (in politics as in business) provide only hints and clues. They initiate nothing. Take two easy examples from recent history. The groups didn't invent our Saturday Guide four years ago. They merely gave it the most positive thumbs up I can ever remember. They facilitated the investment which made it possible. When, however, we tried to invent another bit of the paper (based on a very clear focus-group prescription), it was a total flop. After they got what they said they wanted, they didn't want what they wanted at all. The results, in short, are only as good as the ideas and the visions you feed in. The groups, by themselves, produce neither. Their work is useful, but inert.

What my scathing Conservative meant was that Labour was falling back in anxiety, on this low common denominator of inertia — giving the groups a veto, lacking to please. Perhaps he's right. There is no current attempt to feed European ideas or vision into the act. There is a telling reluctance to pick up issues (like sleaze, since you ask) where the groups declare a general state of disillusion across all parties — rather than blaming one alone. The Tories have the perverse advantage of having to sell what they've got: Labour is lumbered with the cross of endless options.

Was it an insult? Was it a shiver of apprehension? Does Central Office secretly wish it could make any pitch to its focus targets and forget the incubus of real life? I can't put that in focus. But — as delivered — it certainly sounded like an insult: it certainly sounded as though quivering inertia on the other side was Mr Major's dearest wish. If that's true, what are they going to do about it?

Focus groups are as much art as science. They are not ultimate juries. Their inevitably fudgy verdicts depend

Me? I believe in New Labour and New C of E



Bel Littlejohn

RELIGION is the flavour of the month. "Neopaganism a threat to society" ran the headline in Tuesday's Guardian, bless it. Me? I'm not one to be taken in by superstitions — and never will be, touch wood. As an Aries, I'm a natural sceptic. Combine that with the fact that last night the tarot cards said I should beware of new faiths, and you'll understand why I'm dead against hooking myself to the first crazy new belief that comes along.

Which is not to say I'm not deeply religious, because I am. I've spent countless hours exploring my spirituality with my good friend Anita Rodrick, bless her. Between the two of us we've discovered we've both lived many times before. Anita believes she was a beautiful ancient Egyptian princess in a previous life, pampered every day by myriads of servants with Peppermint Foot Lotion and Vanilla Elbow Rub. On the other hand, Anita's convinced that I was once an overweight Lancashire housewife plagued by corns. "But that's a really great thing to be, Bel," she tells me, with the sympathetic look in her eyes. "There's no need to feel embarrassed about it. I envy you, truly I do. You know, sometimes I still bear the scars of my servitude."

Not to worry, I tell her — my inner eye tells me that a few centuries after being an ancient Egyptian princess she enjoyed the privilege — and, believe me, it is a privilege — of living as an embittered bearded fishmonger in a hovel on the outskirts of East Croydon. "Just think of the unique insight you will have gained into the lives of others in a similar position!" I enthuse. Happily, we both know that as, respectively, the founder of the Body Shop and a much-loved award-winning columnist on the Guardian, we're as high up the human scale as we can possibly be. Next stop? Nirvana.

As I say, I'm too serious a person, too committed to my fellow human beings, to wholly believe in the mumbo-jumbo dished up to the weak and the gullible by the established "religions" of this world. I think I first realised I was nearly half atheist when I met Professor Richard Dawkins just before we went into the Start The Week studio. "I can see you're an atheist just like me, Bel," he said, looking long and hard at my palm with the impartial stare of the true scientist. "And then this

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Alex de Waal argues that there are strict limits to what the international force can achieve in Central Africa: they can protect civilians, but they can't prevent war

No bloodless miracle

IN CENTRAL Africa today, the main killers are guns, grenades and above all genocidal ideology. Hunger and disease are secondary factors. The central challenge of a political and humanitarian response in eastern Zaire is the continued presence of Hutu extremist forces, for whom human life has no value at all. These men and women murdered 800,000 Rwandese Tutsis in 1994, and, since their military defeat at the hands of the Rwandese Patriotic Front, have continued their campaign — albeit at a lower level — from relief camps in Zaire, fed by international humanitarian agencies.

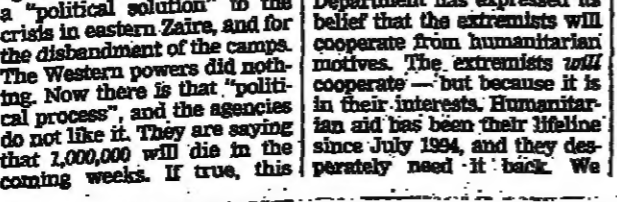
It is not possible to accommodate to these people: they must be removed from the political scene if there are to be any prospects for Central Africa. Trying to "separate" or "disarm" them is like trying to strip the claws off a tiger one by one: they will do the clawing first. When their atrocities — murders, mutilations and expulsions — had spread to engulf a wide swathe of eastern Zaire, the local people took up arms to resist. The extremists are fighting for a genocidal ideology that makes fascism seem moderate; their enemies are literally fighting for their lives. For two and a half years, aid agencies have been calling for a "political solution" to the crisis in eastern Zaire, and for the dismantling of the camps. The Western powers did nothing, and the agencies call for a "political process" do not like it. They are saying that 1,000,000 will die in the coming weeks. If true, this

would represent a mortality rate on a totally unprecedented scale; many times worse than the worst famine in Ethiopia at the worst of the famine in 1984 — and that was after several years of drought, war and deprivation. It would be quite without precedent in world history for such a calamity to strike a population until a few weeks ago relatively well fed. The agencies are the first to admit they do not know the scale of the problems, yet they confidently assert that donating to them can save 1,000,000 lives. This is irresponsible: to save 1,000,000 lives, it would be quite justifiable to abandon any political process. This would give no room for the kind of patient, tough political processes —

both talking and fighting — that are needed. The international troops will have no mandate to disarm the extremists — Western generals have no intention of fighting a war in the forests and mountains of Central Africa. So the forces will "establish" the situation: obtain some sort of freezing of the battle lines so that the refugees can be fed. The US State Department has expressed its belief that the extremists will cooperate from humanitarian motives. The extremists will cooperate — but because it is in their interests. Humanitarian aid has been their lifeline since July 1994, and they desperately need it back. We

know their intentions as they have stated them clearly: to wipe out the Tutsis and their allies and achieve political supremacy in the region. A humanitarian response must balance the principles of providing sustenance to the needy with not giving the slightest support to those responsible for their plight. Most importantly, the Geneva Conventions put strict conditions on the delivery of humanitarian aid. Under Article 23 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, it is quite legitimate to block aid to a belligerent party if there is any reason to believe that aid may be diverted, may not be properly monitored or controlled, or even if feeding civilians will enable the belligerent to divert other resources to its war effort.

These laws were not drafted by men and women who were callous or who wanted to see needless starvation: they were the outcome of first-hand experience of the horrors of war. They should not be discarded lightly. International forces can play a role: they can assist in delivering food to the Zairians, in protecting civilians from the attacks of the extremists and their allies, and in helping people return to Rwanda. They cannot and should not try to establish or enforce a ceasefire, and they should not negotiate with the Hutu extremists. There will be no bloodless political solution and it is naive to think there could be one. Who could imagine a political solution in a situation in which one side, the Hutu



Alex de Waal is co-director of Africa Rights. Our illustrator Andrzej Krzewuski has been commended in the National Art Library Awards for a drawing on this page in July 1995. It will be shown at the V&A Museum.

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Finance Guardian

GUS catalogues £1bn deal

Great Universal facts

- Britain's biggest retail order operator. Catalogues include: Great Universal, Kaye, Choice and Marshall-Ward
- Owns Burberry, Scotch House and White Arrow-Express
- Owns high street property estate valued at £284 million
- Formed in 1917, has been run by just three people, all members of Wolfson
- Recently reported 48th consecutive year of profits growth

The impression I have got from the City is that they [shareholders] were not entirely happy at our accumulation of cash and our failure to find something to invest in... We have gone half the way to satisfying them," he said.

Nearly \$490 million of the purchase price for Experian will be financed by dollar borrowings which, Lord Wolfson added, would leave GUS sufficient cash if another attractive takeover target arose.

He denied the group had anything specific in mind, although he said more opportunities arose in the information sector than in the more mature retail industry. The chairman refused to comment on whether yesterday's deal meant that the rumoured merger with retail group

Next, of which he is also chairman, was now off the cards.

He hinted that, if cash is not absorbed by more acquisitions, the group would continue to increase dividends at the expense of dividend cover rather than giving dollops of unspent money back every three or four years.

The group — whose catalogue shopping operations have been suffering in a stagnant market — reckons the acquisition will enhance its earnings almost immediately and should be highly cash-generative. Experian is expected to produce operating profits of about £70 million on sales of £248 million this year.

Lord Wolfson dismissed the recent chequered history of British groups buying into

America and said significant new business opportunities should arise from combining Experian and CCN, which was formed in 1980 to provide customer credit information for GUS's own catalogue business and is now the largest operator of its kind in Europe.

Customers increasingly demand global service, said Lord Wolfson, who added that 30 per cent of CCN's existing clients were American corporations, such as McDonalds and Ford.

The joint business will account for between 15 per cent and 30 per cent of the GUS group's overall profit and will probably become the fastest growing part of the empire. Eventually, Lord Wolfson admitted, it may be spun off.

Notebook Cold-hearted example of greed



Edited by Alex Brummer

FEW issues have caused more discomfort to John Major's government than the behaviour of a coterie of executives working in the privatised utilities.

Their unrelenting greed, at the expense of all stakeholders — shareholders, employees and customers — has undermined the intellectual case for privatisation and made a mockery of the regulatory process and the efforts by the Greenbury Committee to rein in their excesses.

As the Guardian's investigation of recent takeovers and mergers in the utility industry demonstrates, the willingness of the utility executives to enrich themselves, even as they were marching their companies into new and sometimes alien ownership, knew no bounds. The payments of £2.87 million to former Norweb chairman Ken Harvey, following the takeover by neighbour North West Water, makes the opprobrium heaped upon Cedric Brown, who ran a much larger and more complex business, look gratuitous.

Executives in the industry have chosen to use bid fever in the sector as an opportunity to turn themselves into plutocrats, simply by taking the money and running as American and other sugar-daddies have come along waving their chequebooks. Unlike the previous enrichment of the lives which was conducted in the full blast of publicity, this second generation of pay-outs has been made under the cover of darkness.

The astonishing compensation figure of £23.9 million is hidden away in Companies House, beyond the access of the general public.

Moreover, these same executives have wasted some \$64 million, which could have been used to reduce energy bills, through a redistribution of income to those who have least need — the City advisers called in to defend the companies unsuccessfully from marauders.

If there were any justice the new owners would force the former executives to disgorge their new-found wealth and the proceeds could be used to relieve the heating bills of the elderly, who will struggle to meet them this winter.

Royal alliance

IF THE Royal Bank of Scotland is really interested in becoming a significant force in the bancassurance field then it would have made more sense to have negotiated a full takeover of its mutual Edinburgh neighbour, Scottish Widows rather than to enter into a semi-baked alliance where the joins and lines of control are murky.

Certainly, full takeovers, like the Halifax's absorption of Clerical Medical, make more sense than alliances which later have to be abandoned, such as NatWest Life's deal with Clerical Medical.

However, one can see that there is short-term appeal for both parties in the proposed deal. For Scottish Widows, which has been through a cost-cutting exercise this year, the deal with Royal Scottish Assurance and the link with the Royal Bank deals with the problems of growing the business and new capital that face many of the mutual insurers.

As for RBS, uniting Scottish Widows' strong franchise in the life and pensions area with the selling skills of Direct Line — which is constantly moving into new products — looks sensible.

Nevertheless, while this remains a loose confederation of companies rather than a full merger of insurance interests it will be impossible to realise the full benefits that can come with systems, sales and product integration.

Wolfson wager

AT FIRST sight, the £1 billion acquisition of Experian by GUS does not augur well. The company may have pioneered the hostile takeover in Britain but is now woefully out of practice, having allowed some 30 years to elapse since its last big deal.

And where does GUS decide to sharpen its expansionary

MCI puts Murdoch stake on agenda

Nicholas Bamister
Technology Editor

THE future of MCI's stake in Rupert Murdoch's media and entertainment empire is likely to be decided before the US telecommunications group completes its £12 billion merger with British Telecom.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said yesterday that MCI was reassessing its relationship with Mr Murdoch's master company, News Corporation.

He expected the MCI board to make a decision on whether to keep or dispose of its News Corp stake before BT's bid for MCI has cleared all the regulatory hurdles in the US, UK and Europe.

BT is keen to become more than a conveyor of other people's information and closer links with Mr Murdoch's newspapers, television, films and books empire would help it achieve that. But Sir Peter said BT did not have to take equity stakes in content providers to achieve its goals.

MCI has agreed to invest up to \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) in News Corp in return for a near 18 per cent stake.

Don Crutcherbank, the industry regulator, has made it clear that, if powerful content providers and telecom operators come together, he would not regard dominance as necessarily a



It's profitable to talk... BT's finance director, Robert Brace (left), and chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield, yesterday

problem. But he has emphasised that regulation would be required.

BT, which yesterday reported flat interim profits, played down the size of the fees it will have to pay its advisers in connection with its MCI bid — the largest in UK corporate history.

Finance director Robert

Brace said he expected them to be in the tens of millions rather than hundreds of millions of dollars.

BT's first-half profits fell fractionally, from £1.6 billion to £1.59 billion, after a \$50 million charge to cover the premium on bond repurchases and nearly doubled redundancy

charges of \$335 million.

Nearly 3,200 staff took voluntary redundancy and a similar number are expected to go in the second half of the year, taking full-year redundancy costs to between 2400 million and 2450 million.

The group's residential customer base weathered

Rebels triumph at Greycoat

Ian King

GREYCOAT, the property group, was yesterday snubbed by institutional investors as it tried to defeat moves by merger holders to force it into merger talks with smaller rival Moorfield Estates.

Greycoat, which brushed aside an approach from Moorfield earlier this week, was defeated as it fought calls to adjourn yesterday's extraordinary meeting for another three weeks.

The company, which said it had been contacted by a number of other parties interested in discussing a merger or takeover, is now expected to receive a renewed and more detailed approach from Moorfield.

At the meeting, Greycoat — which is over four times the

size of Moorfield — had faced calls for its break-up from Brian Myerson and Julian Tregier, whose Active Value fund controls 11 per cent of the company's shares.

But instead of taking his break-up motion, Mr Myerson called for an adjournment of the meeting, which he said would allow Greycoat to consider Moorfield's approach more fully.

When his call for an adjournment was defeated on a show of hands, Mr Myerson requested a poll of shareholders, which backed him by 53.1 million votes to 41.9 million.

It is believed that Mr Myerson expressed himself "delighted", and said the decision had been a "victory for shareholder democracy".

He said: "Moorfield is in the process of refining the detail of its proposal. We want Greycoat to sit down over the next few weeks with them, and we've forced the board to do that."

However, a spokesman for Greycoat said last night that the company was yet to receive the "refined" approach from Moorfield, which is said to run to some 40 pages.

Greycoat shares closed up a 1/2p at 155.5p.

Scottish Widows takes a protector

Pauline Springett

MUTUAL life insurer Scottish Widows yesterday defied the debate about the future of mutualism when it announced it was linking up with the Royal Bank of Scotland in a move seen as designed to prevent a takeover of the Black Widow.

The deal, still to be finalised, should result in Scottish Widows buying around 20 per cent of RBS's life insurance subsidiary, Royal Scottish Insurance (RSA). Scottish Widows will also provide administration services for RSA.

It is not clear how much the

stake will cost Scottish Widows, although as the subsidiary was worth £77 million at the end of 1995 and made a £25 million profit that year, it could be around £18 million.

Until earlier this week, Scottish Equitable had held a 20 per cent stake in RSA.

Scottish Widows and RSA will be run as completely separate companies with separate products. However, RBS's Direct Line Life operation will be run as a joint venture between RBS and Scottish Widows.

Further link-ups are possible, for instance on the banking side, because Scottish Widows also runs a small bank, but no announcements are expected for a few months.

Mike Ross, chief executive of Scottish Widows insisted the deal was not the beginning of the end of mutualism for Scottish Widows. "By working together in this way, and by agreeing to seek other ways in which we can combine our talents, we believe we can continue the strong development of our business whilst retaining our independence as one of the leading mutual insurers in the UK," he said.

But industry experts said they thought the move was an attempt by Scottish Widows



Richard Thomas reports on deflating duties that produce the inflation figures

AT FIRST sight, Carol McDonnell looks like any other bargain hunter, delving into the racks of clothes in a central London department store. On closer inspection she turns out to be diligently tapping away at a tiny palm-top computer.

A shopper from a rival shop? A desperate creative force from a fashion house, seeking inspiration for next year's look? Not quite.

Mrs McDonnell is one of

the army of hundreds who collect the 500 pieces of price information — on everything from the cost of sending a red rose to Watford to the price tag on a pair of socks — that make up the monthly Retail Price Index.

Compared with the excitement the inflation figures can create on the financial markets — demonstrated yesterday when the bracee ones jumped and shouted after the worse-than-expected October RPI number — the job of checking whether a pack of white Y-fronts is still £3.99 is a bit tedious.

"I wouldn't say it was exactly exciting," says Mrs McDonnell, searching for the same pair of socks she

checked the previous month. "Actually it can be a bit boring. Usually, in fact."

Such is the grinding boredom of the collection that Mrs McDonnell's colleagues in the Office for National Statistics — which does the central London collection — have opted out.

"One has got a doctor's note to say that the computer is too heavy for her," explains Mrs McDonnell, with a remarkable lack of bitterness. "The other one, a gentleman in his 50s, refuses to do it because he says he won't be seen rummaging through women's underwear."

Perhaps lingerie-phobia explains why the majority

New means to aid motorists

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

MOTORISTS could soon get traffic information from a network of privatised regional traffic control centres aimed at relieving Britain's worsening roads congestion.

The plan, specifically designed to harness the potential of the private sector — while making life easier for the frustrated motorist — is being considered by the Government in consultation with the Highways Agency, which is responsible for running the roads network.

The Government hopes to attract interest from the motoring organisations and a number of leading companies with expertise in traffic control. The agency is currently holding talks with the private sector over plans on how the scheme could be commercially exploited.

motorways and main trunk routes. They would collate travel information for direct transmission to motorists through local radio networks.

Ministers favour the idea because it would be largely financed by the private sector, costing the taxpayer virtually nothing. Industry would then build and operate the scheme in partnership with the Highways Agency, which is responsible for running the roads network.

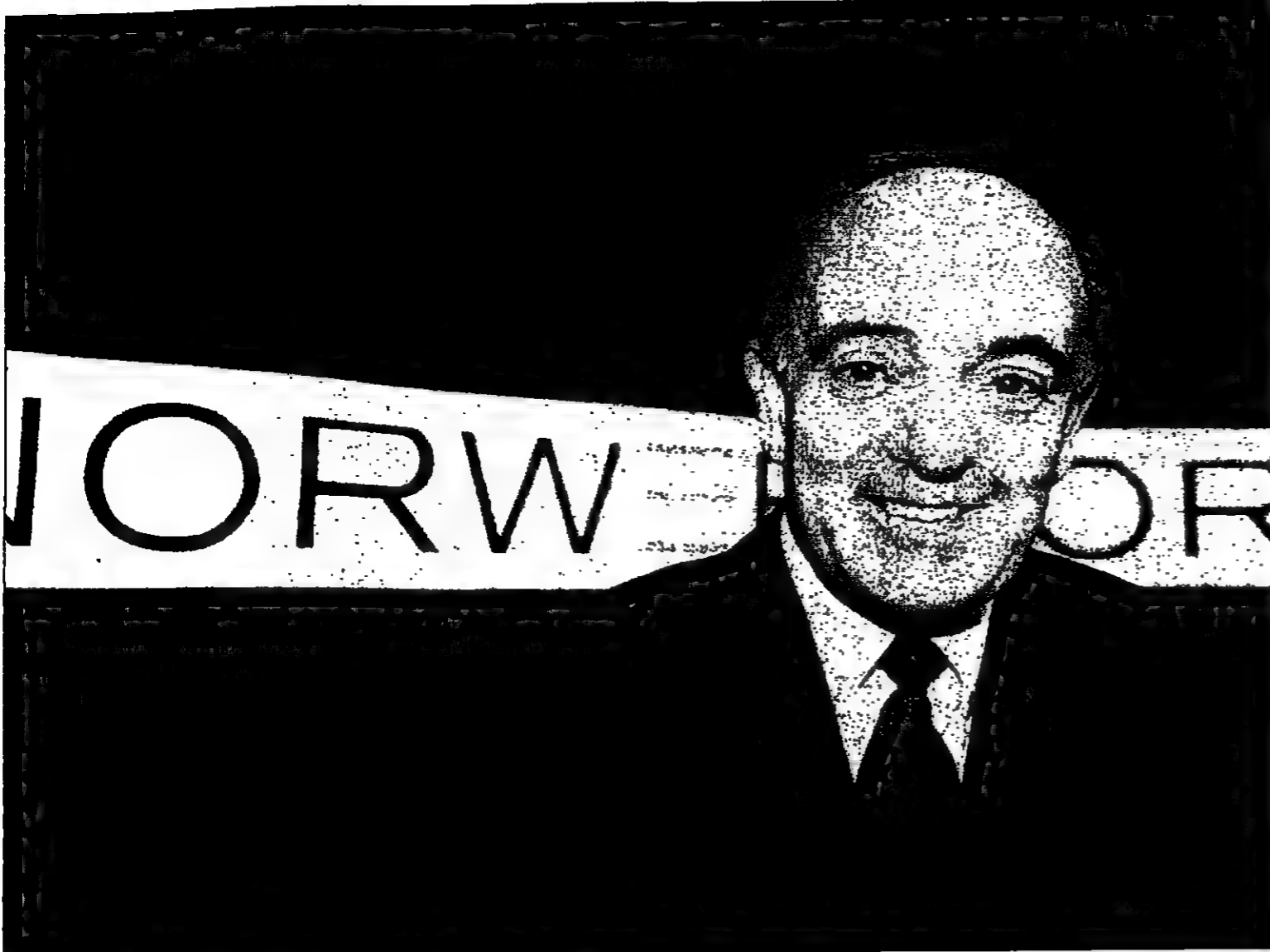
The Government hopes to attract interest from the motoring organisations and a number of leading companies with expertise in traffic control. The agency is currently holding talks with the private sector over plans on how the scheme could be commercially exploited.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

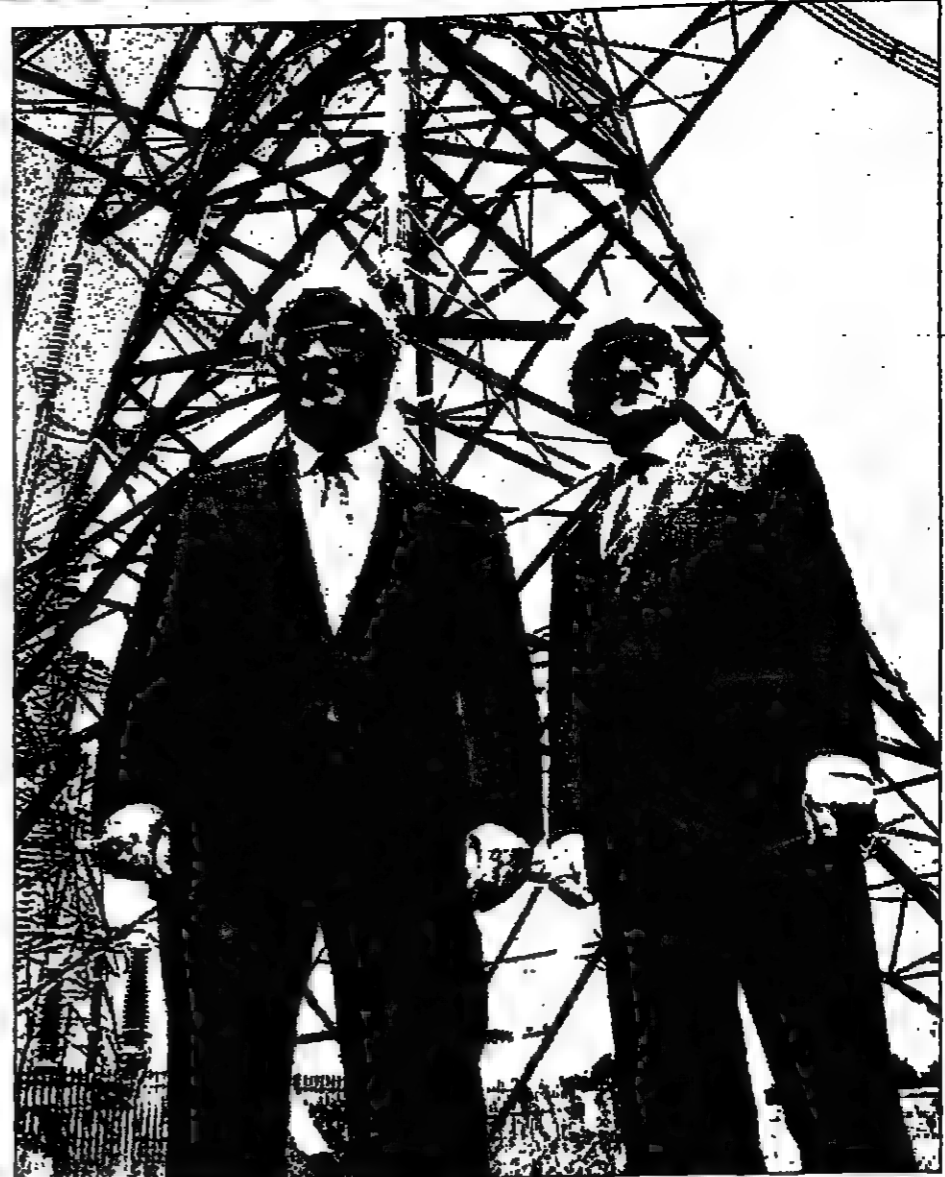
Australia 2.0430	France 6.19	Italy 2.473	Singapore 2.7750
Austria 17.09	Germany 2.43	Malta 0.5740	South Africa 7.60
Belgium 69.02	Greece 387.02	Netherlands 2.2720	Spain 204.85
Canada 2.1675	Hong Kong 12.55	New Zealand 2.2725	Sweden 10.86
Cyprus 0.7280	India 59.10	Norway 10.23	Switzerland 2.04
Denmark 2.27	Ireland 0.9700	Portugal 246.92	Turkey 156.054
Finland 7.47	Israel 5.34	Saudi Arabia 6.20	USA 1.6285

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Fat cats scandal



Northern heights... Ken Harvey tops the pay league with £610,248 for eight months' service at Norweb



Eastern millionaires... John Devaney, left, and James Smith

The power game millionaires

Simon Beavis and Chris Barrie

ANY of the executives who took the electricity industry through privatisation and then saw their companies bought up in last year's binge of takeovers probably hoped that final accounts would slip into Companies House and quietly gather dust.

The records show that directors have walked away from the industry with nearly £27 million in compensation. Against pay-offs of this scale, the furore over the pay of Cedric Brown at British Gas pales considerably.

But the legal requirement for the companies that have been taken over to file accounts means the "fat cat" pay issue looks set to erupt again in the months running up to the election, when Mr Lang and his colleagues had hoped the issue would have been long buried thanks in part to the work of the Greenbury committee on top pay.

That it has not means that his job of scrutinising the latest bids for regional electricity companies — including Dominant Resources (£1.25 billion for East Midlands Electricity and CE Energy's £768 million offer for Northern — will become politically much more vexed.

Mr Harvey was also paid £407,300 compensation for loss of office and more than £378,000 in pension contributions. Comparison with the company's 1995 accounts suggests Mr Harvey also had share options worth

The system of generous awards is a direct product of the Government's privatisation of the industry in 1990

£1.48 million. Other Norweb executives also did well. Cancelling the executive share option scheme cost the company more than £8.4 million. Compensation for loss of office and benefits for the boardroom as a whole cost some £770,000, pay another £530,000, bonuses £168,000, and pension top-ups another £370,000.

Eastern Group executives were also well paid in the company's final year of inde-

pendence. Apart from the million-pound payments to current chairman John Devaney and former chairman James Smith, other board directors shared outlays of £1.86 million for share options and £1 million for the loss of a "performance share scheme". The payments were in addition to the £533,000 paid to directors for loss of office.

The companies that supply Wales and Merseyside, Manweb and South Wales Electricity, also paid hefty compensation to the boardroom.

At Seeboard, now owned by the US utility Central and South Western, there were few pay-offs because most of the board stayed on. But share options made the directors £1.7 million, on a conservative analysis. Much of this came from a tranche of 417,000 options awarded as late as June 1995, five months before the board and CSW announced they had struck terms for a £1.6 billion agreed takeover.

This final tranche of options was supposed to relate to company performance. But the accounts state that "as a result of the offer, performance criteria relating to options granted on 9 June, 1995 no longer apply".

The closing months of the company's independence also saw part-time chairman Sir Keith Smart's salary — which is paid to Associated British Ports — rise by 27.6 per cent to £27,000 for nine months' work.

The companies that supply

paid fees of £700,000, £1.3 million in compensation, and £1 million in pensions, benefits and share options. South Western Electricity has also filed accounts

following its acquisition by the Southern Company of the US. However, it does not disclose directors' remuneration on the grounds that they are interim results.

Windfalls for the directors

Eastern — bought by Hanson £2.5 billion	
Compensation for loss of office	£0.53 million
Compensation for share options	£3.8 million
Compensation for performance share scheme	£12.5 million
Total	£16.8 million
Norweb — bought by North West Water for £1.8 billion	
Compensation for loss of office	£0.88 million
Compensation for share options	£2.7 million
Total	£3.58 million
Manweb — bought by ScottishPower for £1.1 billion	
Compensation for loss of office	£1.3 million
Compensation options, pensions and benefits	£0.4 million
Total	£1.7 million
Swalec — bought by Welsh Water for £270 million	
Compensation for executive options	£1.9 million
Compensation for loss of office	£1.8 million
Special consolidation payments	£0.42 million
Total	£4.12 million
Seeboard — bought by CSW of US for £1.6 billion	
Compensation for share options	£1.7 million
Total	£1.7 million
Grand Total	£26.9 million

The payments to individuals pale alongside the restructuring costs following the takeovers. Apart from bid costs of some £54 million between the five of the companies — Eastern does not break down its defence costs clearly — the groups have spent £213 million to restructure their operations.

The difficulty for Mr Lang is that the system of generous awards — in particular well-cushioned share option schemes — is a direct product of the Government's privatisation of the industry in 1990. Closer to home, it was ministers' decisions to lift protective "golden shares" in the companies that opened the flood gates for the spate of takeover bids which has seen all but three regional electricity companies either lose their independence or attract takeovers. Mr Lang has, with only two exceptions — the bids by National Power and PowerGen for RECs — waved the offers through.

With the takeover binge still continuing apace, he may find himself in the firing line as election day draws near.

'Slack' security ruined Crown's Lazard case

Fraud trial collapse puts focus on plight of telex operators, says Dan Atkinson

THE £1 million-plus fraud trial involving top merchant bank Lazard Brothers collapsed last week because evidence of lax security torpedoed the Crown's claim that only defendant Jacqueline Tomlinson could have been guilty.

The prosecution called a halt when it became clear that one of any number of people could have penetrated Lazard's telex department.

Miss Tomlinson walked free from Sharnbrook Crown Court on Friday after just a

few days of a trial expected to last up to three weeks. It is thought the circumstantial evidence against her was capped by proof of lax security at Lazard's, and the Crown chose to withdraw its accusations.

News of slack security prevailing at Lazard's four years ago comes just days after Midland Bank bashed an SOS from its security chief, John Bryant, warning that Far Eastern crime syndicates have identified the international bank telex system "as an ideal way to defraud institutions".

Mr Bryant urged a worldwide joint response from the banking community to frustrate the fraudsters.

In the wake of the case's collapse, attention now focuses on the plight of three telex operators, including

Miss Tomlinson, who left the bank under a cloud; two were made redundant with an offer of early retirement. Lazard's would not comment on whether it now considered the three to withdraw its accusations.

Among the instances of lax security at Lazard's in 1992 are thought to be suggestions that the card-key system could easily be circumvented by using back staircases and that telex request forms were on display throughout the bank.

Lazard's position is that the case collapsed because of lack of evidence.

City of London Police fraud squad, which investigated the alleged crime, has closed the file pending new evidence or further information. Police arrived at Lazard's on September 28 1992 to investigate a fraud discovered on the afternoon of September 25 and allegedly committed on September 22.

Miss Tomlinson, aged 57, of Stepney, east London, pleaded not guilty to conspiring to defraud Lazard Brothers. She was accused of having conspired with Turkish businessman Huseyin Coban and others.

Mr Coban was said by the Crown to have fled to Turkey from his former home in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. The Crown said an associate, George Perrett, was arrested at Heathrow carrying £2 million of the money.

Prosecutor Richard McGregor-Johnson told jurors she had sent out two forged telexes to banks in Zurich and Frankfurt, ordering the transfers of SFr£23 million and DM£1.9 million to two Turkish bank accounts.

The Crown added that by September 25, the money had been shifted into US dollars and moved to a New York bank; £750,000 had been removed in cash, Mr McGregor-Johnson said.

Trailblazing green firms lose patience with silent majority

Roger Cowe

COMPANIES that have led the way in reporting on emissions, spending and social impacts generally.

Speaking at the launch of an international review of green reporting, he said the trail-blazers had set a target of 10,000 companies worldwide producing some kind of social report by the year 2005. The current tally is no more than 400.

"They do not want to see

over the past five years wanted to see dramatic progress in reporting on emissions, spending and social impacts generally.

Speaking at the launch of an international review of green reporting, he said the trail-blazers had set a target of 10,000 companies worldwide producing some kind of social report by the year 2005. The current tally is no more than 400.

"They do not want to see

the free-riders getting away with non-reporting. Most are not yet calling for mandatory reporting, but this will come," he said.

Mr Elkington predicted an explosion of activity over the next few years even without mandatory requirements, as demands for greater transparency force more companies to report beyond their traditional financial boundaries.

"Stakeholders are beginning to demand a new kind of report that goes beyond the gloss and beyond the green," Mr Elkington said.

The research published yesterday, in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme, found that even the most advanced companies are still falling short of what users want, although many have moved from the original public relations docu-

ments to serious, comparable data.

Only Body Shop came close, however, to meeting the requirements for comprehensive stakeholder reporting. Other leading companies included Phillips Petroleum and the US chemical company Monsanto, and British Airways, BT and Thomson EMI in the UK.

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Radical rejig for Lloyd's

Pauline Springett

LOYD'S of London yesterday unveiled the most radical restructuring plan in its 300-year history in an attempt to curb escalating costs, including personnel, and sharpen its commercial focus.

Chief executive Ron Sandler said the plan, which will be implemented in January 1997, would involve scrapping the current muddled structure of the Lloyd's Corporation, which administers the insurance market.

The key plank of the revamp will be the establishment of business units dedicated to specific areas such as insurance services and North America. These will report to boards comprised of members drawn from firms that operate in Lloyd's, and so will be answerable to the Lloyd's marketplace. They will be run like small businesses and will have to produce annual budgets and strategic plans.

In the long run, Mr Sandler expects some of the services, such as claims handling, will also be available to customers outside Lloyd's.

Mr Sandler conceded that jobs cuts among the 2,400 cor-

poration staff would be inevitable, although he refused to say how many people would face the axe. But he insisted the revamp would produce definite overall benefits. "I believe this does create the opportunity for cost savings across the board."

Mr Sandler is under considerable pressure to revitalise the antiquated insurance market swiftly. Lloyd's almost collapsed after thousands of its investors were nearly bankrupted after the market lost £8 billion in 1994-95. Two months ago, it pulled off a ground-breaking £2.2 billion rescue deal with the investors or Names.

But both Mr Sandler and Lloyd's chairman, David Rowland, have made no secret of the fact that much work still needs to be done to enable Lloyd's to compete effectively in the increasingly competitive international insurance market.

There is particular concern about Lloyd's costs, which have been rising alarmingly. In 1995, they outstripped income by £18 million. This was partly because of the expense of sorting out the rescue deal but it also suggested that Lloyd's was in danger of losing its competitive edge.

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سكيا من الامل

with left
own in
mouth

Tennis Smith left down in the mouth

Stephen Barley in Telford

BRITISH sport, as the lack of success at the Atlanta Olympics amply demonstrated, is clearly in need of money at the grassroots level, but let nobody run away with the idea that the advent of Lottery funding will lead directly to success.

Tennis, thanks to the millions the Wimbledon championships generate, is not short of funding and the Lawn Tennis Association supports up-and-coming youngsters very generously. Yet internationally, Henman and Rusedski apart, British tennis belongs to the also-rans.

The association was understandably in rather prickly mood yesterday after Sam Smith had pointed out this obvious fact and further suggested that the players were rewarded too early for not doing enough. Smith quickly retracted the criticism, explaining that it was not aimed at the LTA but more at the media.

By this time it was too late for the governing body had clearly put a hex on Smith, the No. 1 seed, who lost 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 against Claire Taylor yesterday.

"The LTA have supported me very well and I have no negative feeling towards them," said Smith after her defeat, a disclaimer that was as hollow as her original criticism had been barbed.

There are those in Telford's echoing halls and warren of corridors who seem to have the impression that British tennis is booming, and that any criticism is both totally out of order and patently untrue.

Tim Henman's success — and let us not forget he has yet to win a major international tournament, never mind a Grand Slam — has inevitably led to a much more upbeat mood, and Greg Rusedski, who yesterday reached the quarter-finals of the Nationals with a 7-6, 6-4 win over Miles Mauger, came to the corporate defence of his fellow pro.

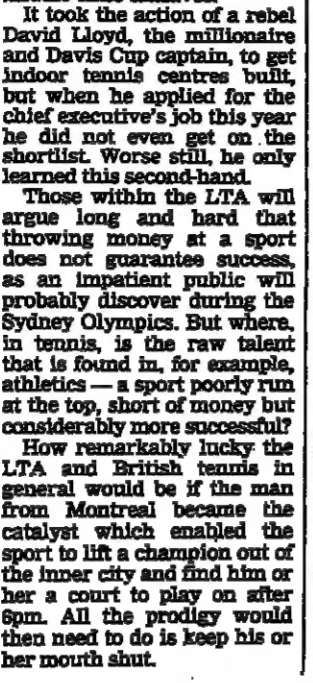
"Sam is wrong," he said, and five minutes later Nestlé UK announced he was to become its tennis ambassador. In fact Rusedski, whose affinity with young spectators is always apparent, will eventually, via this role, attempt to bring tennis to the inner-city youngsters.

The real trouble with tennis in Britain, and something that the LTA with its plethora of committees and sub-committees has never properly addressed, is that the country's best athletes very rarely get a sniff of the sport which smuggles in its essentially middle-class enclaves.

It took the action of a rebel David Lloyd, the millionaire and Davis Cup captain, to get indoor tennis centres built, but when he applied for the chief executive's job this year he did not even get to the shortlist. Worse still, he only learned this second-hand.

Those within the LTA will argue long and hard that throwing money at a sport does not guarantee success, as an impatient public will probably discover during the Sydney Olympics. But when it comes to tennis, the man from Montreal became the catalyst which enabled the sport to lift a champion out of the inner city and find him or her a court to play on after 5pm. All the prodigy would then need to do is keep his or her mouth shut.

Row-beaten... the former British No. 1 Jeremy Bates finds the going tough against Northamptonshire's Paul Robinson, losing 6-4, 6-3



Row-beaten... the former British No. 1 Jeremy Bates finds the going tough against Northamptonshire's Paul Robinson, losing 6-4, 6-3

Sport in brief County for SA coach

GLAMORGAN have appointed the South African Duncan Fletcher as their coach for next summer. He will take up the post at the end of his country's cricket season and stay with the Welsh county until September 26, when he will resume his current position with Western Province.

Fletcher was with South Africa A on their tour of England in July and August during which they beat Glamorgan.

Golf
Scotland's Catriona Matthew shot the best round of her career, an eight-under-par 65, to take a one-stroke lead on the opening day of the Australian Women's Masters on the Gold Coast. Matthew, who won last week's Australian Open in Melbourne, carded nine birdies.

Rugby Union
Leicester's match against the Barbarians, which is usually played on December 27, has been switched to February 28 this season because of fixture congestion.

Boxing
Brighton's Scott Welch has given up the British heavy-weight title to concentrate on a WBO championship campaign. His decision gives Norwich's Herbie Hide the chance to regain the title he won in February 1993 but which he lost to Steve Collins.

Sailing
Ras Furrar in Ariel was first to finish the second part of the opening leg of Clipper '96 when he and his 13-man crew sailed into Fort Lauderdale with a lead of 200 miles, writes Bob Fisher. In the previous 24 hours, benefiting from strong northerly winds, Ariel had covered 243 miles.



Row-beaten... the former British No. 1 Jeremy Bates finds the going tough against Northamptonshire's Paul Robinson, losing 6-4, 6-3

Racing Jockey Club set to relax whip rules

THE Jockey Club is bowing to pressure from within racing to amend the whip rules which have resulted in five jockeys being suspended in two Classic races last summer.

After much deliberation the regulation committee has decided that exceeding the number of strokes will no longer lead to automatic suspension.

Any disciplinary action will soon be at the discretion of the racecourse vet, who in the event of a ferocious finish and at the behest of the local stewards will look at the horses involved.

Bruising of the animals will mean automatic suspension, but jockeys who exceed the number of laid down strokes will not necessarily be banned as is the case now. Following the bad publicity and ridicule heaped on the authorities after the imposition of whip-bans in the 2,000 Guineas and St Leger, some action had to be taken and this new initiative will be welcomed by racing professionals.

Chris Hawkins
The Telford Handicap Chase won by Ballylea Boy — the first leg of a double for David Nicholson and his jockey Adrian Maguire.

Ballylea Boy held Ardronney Chief by a neck up the hill after a punishing three miles and a furlong, but the favourite Celtic Silver, beaten four lengths in third, had the door closed on him when challenging from the last.

Richard Guest, rider of Celtic Silver, thought the stewards were "a bit easy on Maguire" but it has to be said that Guest made his own trouble by trying to come between Ballylea Boy and the runner-up.

Nicholson has decided to run Burton Bank in tomorrow's Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham and, with the top weight Dublin Flyer also certain to take his chance, the race is not short of quality. Burton Bank worked AI yesterday morning and as he likes first ground there is no reason why he shouldn't run," said Nicholson.

It's A Snip has finished first, and more recently third, in the Velka Pardubice and will relish the three miles and seven furlongs of Sunday's race, although Mann is worried about the ground.

Cheltenham with form

1.1.8 Coolmore	1.2.2 Dooling
1.2.1 Coolmore	1.2.1 Last Play
1.2.2 Southampton	1.2.1 Phoenix

1.15 COAL VALLEY FINE GAMES COMPANY HANDBICAP CHASE 4m 110yds CS 25.00

1	21-47-1 SPANISH LIGHT (201) (9) (Dr John Barrow 7-11-10)	J Barrow (7)
2	21-47-2 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
3	21-47-3 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
4	21-47-4 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
5	21-47-5 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
6	21-47-6 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
7	21-47-7 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
8	21-47-8 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
9	21-47-9 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
10	21-47-10 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)

1.50 SCOTLANDS NATIONAL HANDBICAP CHASE 4m 110yds CS 25.00

1	11-11-1 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
2	11-11-2 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
3	11-11-3 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
4	11-11-4 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
5	11-11-5 COOLIDGE (20) (P) (Miles 10-11-10)	J Thomas (7)
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1.50 SCOTLANDS NATIONAL HANDBICAP CHASE 4m 110yds CS 25.00

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1.2.55 GALLOWAY MILLS HANDBICAP CHASE 4m 110yds CS 25.00

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1.30 GALLOWAY MILLS HANDBICAP CHASE 4m 110yds CS 25.00

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1.30 GALLOWAY MILLS HANDBICAP CHASE 4m 110yds CS 25.00

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Lingfield (A.W.)

1.2.05 GALLOWAY MILLS HANDBICAP CHASE 4m 110yds CS 25.00

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14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

Foreign 'mercenaries' and 'FA dummies' cop a Sugaring

Martin Thorpe
LAN SUGAR yesterday branded some overseas stars 'mercenaries' and predicted that many would have left England by the start of next season...

prudent buying policy in response to criticisms at the club's AGM. One shareholder claimed: "We are watching dross at White Hart Lane."

left after a year and Popescu even sooner. "We were the innovators when we signed Klinsmann but there is a price to pay," he said.

where a player's wife does not like the local coffee so everything falls apart." He described many clubs as Tottenham imitators "who were jealous of the hype surrounding us."

He also issued a stern warning about the effects of the Bosman ruling, accusing "the dummies at the FA" of not understanding its full implications.

Pollock to make splash with Bolton

Ian Ross
JAMIE POLLOCK will this weekend back the prevailing trend when he joins Bolton Wanderers. The England Under-21 midfielder is poised to return to England only two months after using the Bosman ruling to move abroad to the Spanish club Osasuna on a free transfer from Middlesbrough.

his only professional club - after being told that the arrival on Teesside of the foreign manager Emerson and Juninho meant he could no longer be guaranteed regular first-team football.

£2 million when he was being courted by Premiership clubs towards the end of last season. Under the terms of a gentleman's agreement, it is thought that Middlesbrough will receive £350,000 from Osasuna when Pollock moves to Burnley Park.

Todd is keen to invest in new players. This week the manager resisted his long-standing interest in the Welsh international forward Mark Hughes, who may shortly find himself surplus to requirements at Chelsea after the arrival from Italy of Gianfranco Zola.

Teesside samba now a Brazilian excuse-me

David Hopps on the goings and goings that have shaken angry Middlesbrough.

side. There are bound to be some problems at a club with 50 players, but I don't expect players to break a contract, especially in the first few months of it."

Middlesbrough now say they expect Emerson to return next week. His partner Andrea is reported to be homesick and no amount of contemplating Tees Bay, as the winds whip in off the North Sea, has promised to alleviate the symptoms. An English winter is still to come.

One member of the Emerson family has stayed behind on Teesside. His cousin Flavio has been staying at Emerson's house and has even trained with Boro's first-team squad, presumably in the hope that Robson is so enamoured of Brazilians that he will offer him a contract.

When Juninho first asked wages in Middlesbrough was he will offer him a contract. As far as I know he is coming back for him. He has no friends here but I can go out and have nice weekends with my family.

Brolin fears end is near

THE ill-starred Leeds United striker Tomas Brolin is afraid that his career may be over after the collapse of his loan move to Sampdoria.

last November but had been loaned to FC Zurich after falling out with the Yorkshire club. Leeds wanted him back at Elland Road but he refused to return and instead threatened to retire.

"I can only say that Jesper is the most expensive player we have ever sold," said the Gothenburg chairman Gunnar Larsson. "Manchester City closed ranks yesterday around their embattled chairman Francis Lee after hundreds of disen-



Looking elsewhere... Emerson, still in Brazil, may now be heading for Italy

Expressions of loyalty rarely cross national boundaries. "I lived in a big city before I came here and I knew I'd have problems adapting so I brought my family with me."

ly. I think Emerson will return. There are problems but he could be happy." The history of South American players in England does not encourage such a view.

thi, lasted only 23 matches at Birmingham City. The Brazilian striker Mirandinha attracted most attention at Newcastle when Paul Gascoigne shook him by the throat to try to teach him the offside rule, and another Brazilian, Muller, abandoned plans to join Everton once it dawned on him that he would have to pay income tax.



Sugar... AGM broadside

the club but I have no intention of jumping off it at the moment. Myself and Garry Francis will do everything we have to do to make people happy by being successful, but it will take time.

"We have sorted out the financial side and now it's time for the second phase of the master plan. We are full of ambition and will not rest until we've achieved them."

Francis defended his two-year record at Tottenham and pointed to injuries to key players as a reason for the club's inability to win trophies. "I know not all of our players are good enough but we are looking all the time for new talent. We can compete with other clubs."

Players strike deal

Mark Redding
THE threat of a players' strike was averted yesterday when the National Footballers' Association agreed a deal with the Professional Footballers' Association.

Under the deal the union will receive £750,000 a year for five years, the first payment going on benevolent packages, insurance and education. A further £800,000 a year will be spent on other projects to be decided by the clubs and PFA.

The package was agreed after a half-hour meeting between all 72 clubs at a London hotel. The secretary of the Football League, Andy Williamson, said: "Obviously we are pleased that this saga has now been brought to a satisfactory conclusion."

The PFA had balloted its members on strike action after the League refused to pay the £10 million a year levy from its television income on a new £125 million deal with BSkyB.

The player vote was understood to be in favour of industrial action, but the PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor held back the result while negotiations recommenced. Last season the union had received £580,000.

Yesterday's meeting had an unpleasant end for the League president Gordon Taylor who was whacked from under him when the clubs overwhelmingly backed a call for an overhaul of the League's structure.

Robert Armstrong on the new divisions between the RFU and its leading clubs

ENGLAND'S leading clubs have renegotiated their promise to release players in Courage Leagues One and Two for the divisions' matches against touring sides from the southern hemisphere. Yesterday the clubs' umbrella organisation, English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, said that England's three pre-Christmas internationals are the only representative games for which players will be made freely available.

The clubs' decision not to co-operate with the RFU's divisional programme follows the latest breakdown in talks between the RFU and its leading clubs. The RFU had communicated directly to individual clubs last month.

The elite of financially stable clubs, which includes Newcastle, Harlequins, Wasps, Bath, Leicester and Northampton, believe they must continue to negotiate until they have gained almost complete control over their own competitions and sources of revenue. At present the well-off minority can afford to pay their way, courtesy of millionaires such as Sir John Hall and Andrew Brownsword. Consequently they are not under urgent pressure to make major compromises with the RFU.

Rugby Union

Davies earns return to Wales squad

Jonathan Davies, who took his talents north seven years ago but returned to rugby union last season, has been recalled to the Wales squad for the international against Australia on December 1.

The Cardiff fly-half, one of three stand-offs in a squad of 26, last played for Wales against Romania eight years ago. Neil Jenkins, the present Wales captain, played in three Five Nations games last season, and is also included.

Davies, who played the 13-man game for Widnes and Warrington, led the Wales rugby league side that reached the semi-finals of last autumn's World Cup before he returned to the union code. He won 27 Welsh RU caps and played 14 times for the Welsh RL side.

He has taken time to re-adjust to rugby union but he has been in impressive form this season, helping Cardiff to the quarter-finals of the European Cup, in which they played at the Arms Park tomorrow.

"It has been difficult coming back into union but I'm delighted to have this chance of playing for Wales again," he said.

The Wales coach Kevin Bowring said: "Jonathan has started to string some notable performances together, playing with control and impressive decision-making. We need more of that, and now that he has started to put those qualities together I am looking forward to seeing him as part of the squad."

Players face bar from tour games

I say that all we want is to see everything sorted out as soon as possible," he said. "The only thing any of us want to do is to play rugby - and we are getting the opportunity to play top-class rugby."

A claim by an Epruc director that the "intransigence" of Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executive committee, had reunited the top 24 clubs in common cause against the RFU does not stand close scrutiny. The majority of cash-strapped clubs want to sign a deal with Twickenham because they are desperate to qualify for RFU money to help them pay the salaries of players and professional staff.

It is understood that even wealthy Richmond, who are supported by a £2.5 million investment by Ashley Levett, are on the point of breaking ranks with natural allies such as Newcastle and Saracens and accepting the RFU deal communicated directly to individual clubs last month.

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A fresh crisis in relations between the RFU and its leading clubs is under way in the new year if the clubs attempt to withhold the players from the Five Nations Championship, which, in England's case, starts with the Calcutta Cup match against Scotland on February 1. Members of the England squad would then have to choose between club and country even though their club contracts provide for their release to play in England internationals. Scottish, Irish and Welsh players in the Courage Championship have the same clause, for what it is worth.

Derek Morgan, the chairman of the RFU National Playing Committee, said England's long-term planning for the 1999 World Cup was being jeopardised. "It is a desperately sad day for rugby," he said last night.

A heartfelt call for peace between the sides was made by the England prop Jason Leonard, who wins his 50th cap in the international against Italy at Twickenham next Saturday. "I think I can speak on behalf of all the players when

Snooker

Gray leaves Parrott blue

After considering a reported 67 venues, the governing body the WPBSA decided to take no 32 but 16 players to Germany and play the event to a finish in December at the British military base in Osnabrück. The decision was greeted with indignation as an irrelevance in terms of promoting the game to the German public.

The promoter Barry Hearn, in announcing this season's Dr Martens European League, one of the few events the WPBSA does not handle, said: "The WPBSA have lost their way. They can't get sponsors and they can't market the game. The board is a total shambles."

White, the boy wonder of his day, has not won a match in his four events this season and yesterday went down 5-1 to the world No. 55 Mark Davis.

Results

Football
Middlesbrough 1-0 Norwich City
Sheff Wed 1-0 Ipswich Town
Sheff Wed 1-0 Ipswich Town
Sheff Wed 1-0 Ipswich Town

Baseball
New York Yankees 5-0 Boston Red Sox
New York Yankees 5-0 Boston Red Sox

Fixtures

Soccer
Manchester United v Liverpool
Manchester United v Liverpool

Cricket
England v West Indies
England v West Indies

1996-7 Season PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL Tickets available for various clubs

سبکی من الاجل

Sport and money

John Duncan hears good news and bad news about the massive National Lottery funding scheme for British elite competitors

Redgrave warns on £40m hold-up

THE Government's delay in channelling Lottery money to top competitors may already have damaged the Sports Council's £40 million-a-year scheme for elite performers, said Steve Redgrave, the four-times Olympic champion, at yesterday's launch of the programme.

"It is a worry that this money is not here straight away," said the veteran rower, "because obviously other countries are snapping up the best coaches."

"Athletes are aware that this pool of money is there, and that is causing some confusion. But we are prepared to wait if we know that the scheme is going to be the best that it can be."

The money, to assist up to 4,500 elite performers, will not start flowing until next March, not soon enough to help the hard-up through winter training, especially those preparing for the 1997 athletics world championships. The British Athletic Federation's recent financial crisis caused the cancellation of several coaching sessions this winter.

Redgrave's doubts were echoed by the shadow minister for sport, Tom Pendry. "It is a shame that, due to the Government dragging its feet on this matter, the changes have taken so long," said the Labour MP. "Britain's athletes have lost crucial preparation time in the next Olympic cycle."

Pendry also pointed out that there is still no decision on a national stadium and a continuing delay over an elite British Academy of Sport.

The Sports Council scheme, when it comes on stream, will be a boon to top-level British sport, ensuring that competitors at national and international level will not have to take part-time jobs or struggle on the dole as they prepare to represent their country.

"It will be great for me," said the swimmer Paul Palmer, the first British medalist in Atlanta. "If I get it, it would mean I could afford to move away from Lincoln to where the best facilities are."

Performers from age 11 upwards will be able to apply for up to £28,000 of funding for "lifestyle support". A further £20 million has been set aside for coaches and scientists to work with the British elite.

To win funding for their competitors, sports governing bodies will have to set performance targets stating what improvements they will achieve with the money.

The next battle for the Sports Council is to convince the Inland Revenue not to tax funding as income, a point currently in dispute. "We are in careful negotiation with them through the Department of National Heritage," said Sir Rodney Walker, the council's chairman. "We are trying to help them understand that the Treasury already taxes the Lottery at 12 per cent and shouldn't tax it again when we make grants to athletes."

Deserving causes



Jim Walker
Sport: Rowing
Age: 20

Form: In Britain's heavyweight Olympic eight in 1992-95. Also rowed in seven world championships, notably in the 1991 bronze-medal eight.

WALKER was so strapped for cash in the run-up to Atlanta that he was forced to sell his training boat for £2,000 to pay for food and rent. He received £2,000 from the old Sports Aid Foundation's Top 100 Club, which all went on pre-Olympic training trips to Spain, Bulgaria, Florida and Canada.

His only sponsorship is a product-endorsement deal which pays him £25 every time the company uses his image in a magazine. He has recently borrowed £10,000 to return to education — he is doing a PhD in environmental studies at Imperial College — and so remain in rowing. He plans to go full-time again two years before Sydney.



A new dawn for the best Britons... heavyweight rower Jim Walker sculls his way down the Thames in training yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON



Ben Ainslie
Sport: Sailing
Age: 19

Form: 1996 Olympic silver medalist in Laser class.

AFTER he qualified for the Atlanta Games, Ainslie's annual grant from the Royal Yachting Association was raised sixfold from £3,500 to £20,000. Though that may sound a lot, it costs £25,000 a year to keep an Olympic boat on the road and afloat. Like most of Britain's Olympians, Ainslie's biggest

supporters are his parents, who provide rent-free living — also known as home comforts — and financial help.

"I sail in one of the cheapest classes but it still works out expensive," said Ainslie, who has returned to his studies after training full-time for a year before Atlanta.

"Now I know the funds are available I can start preparing properly for the next four years and structure my training around Sydney without any worries."



Paul Palmer
Sport: Swimming
Age: 22

Form: 1996 Olympic 400m freestyle silver medalist.

IT WAS Palmer's comments in Atlanta about lack of funding which set in motion the debate which led to yesterday's announcement. "The public think of the Olympics as a two-week affair which happens every four years," he said. "But for the athletes they are a four-year affair which happens every day."

It was not only Palmer who made big sacrifices; his coach Ian Turner gave up his teaching post to train him full-time. Palmer's main income was his £8,000 grant from the Top 100 Club plus an Amateur Swimming Association grant.

"The funding wasn't really enough to get me to the Olympics," he said. "But I got a medal, whether I would have got gold with better funding I'll never know."



Angie Thorp
Sport: Athletics
Age: 23

Form: 1996 Olympic 100m hurdles semi-finalist, breaking Sally Gunnell's 10-year-old UK record.

THORP was unusual among Britain's Olympic team in that she combined athletics with full-time work.

She lived off her £15,000 annual salary from Abbey National in Sheffield, her parents helping with items such as training trips abroad and vitamin supplements.

After Atlanta she took the decision to work part-time and move to Guildford to be near her coach in an all-out attempt to win a medal at next year's world championships. She receives no sponsorship except for a kit deal and still relies on her parents for financial help.

Thorp estimates she needs £20,000 a year to prepare properly for Sydney.



Lynn Simpson
Sport: Canoeing
Age: 25

Form: Slalom world champion and World Cup series title-holder.

SIMPSON is an example of how the system might work if applied properly. She received £18,000, the maximum allowed, from the Top 100 Club last year and retained her position among the world's top canoeists. Nevertheless she feels she could have achieved more

with even better funding. "I could spend well over £20,000 per year on competition and training around the world," she said. "I'm not talking about five-star luxury, just the opportunity to pursue my sport to the optimum level."

Simpson warns against simply throwing money at the problem, however, saying: "What's the use of people having access to the facilities that our rivals have?" Profiles by Duncan Mackay

Rugby League

Wigan ask for less time on TV

Paul Fitzpatrick

SOME clubs would kill to get on television, but Wigan are appealing for less exposure when the second Super League season starts next year.

The first season, which ended with Wigan runners-up to St Helens, saw the club overtaken for the first time in 11 years as the sport's biggest crowd-pullers.

Now Wigan, in an attempt to entice back the 4,000 spectators they have lost, are to revert to a 3pm Sunday start for all non-televised games. Admission prices will stay the same.

Wigan are also advocating equal air time for all Super League clubs and a restriction on the number of live appearances by any one team.

Maurice Lindsay, the game's chief executive, said yesterday that Sky television would inevitably want to select the "plum" games but, before the schedules were announced, Wigan's concern would be considered sympathetically.

"Sky try to the best of their ability to give a balanced spread," he said, "but, as the end of the season approaches, teams pressing for the championship tend to figure more prominently than others. But we will try to make things as equitable as possible."

Wigan's falling crowds and mounting debts, put at about £3 million, mean that the club have been forced into a policy of economic stringency. The days of the "mega contract" at Central Park are over, Jack Robinson, the chairman, told this week's annual general meeting.

Wigan's recruitment policy was still as good as any, he said, "but we will have to be a bit more economical and get the same sort of quality players we have recruited in the past."

Robinson has been as good as his word recently. Two 21-year-old highly rated Murray, the full-back David Kivray and the back-row forward Stuart Lester, have signed from Auckland Warriors and the prop Robert Hensare, the Junior Elvis captain, may follow them.

Wigan's directors will open talks next week with Dave Whelan, the owner of Wigan Athletic soccer club, about his offer to buy Central Park for £2 million and his plans to redevelop the stadium for the use of both clubs.

Meanwhile, Iestyn Harris, Warrington's 20-year-old Wales and Great Britain back who is on the transfer list at £1.35 million, has retained the chance of joining Leeds. He said he was flattered by Leeds's approach but had set his heart on joining St Helens.

Golf

Trees knock Westwood sideways on the 18th

David Davies in Miyazaki

AN ELEMENTARY error — "the recklessness of youth" — Lee Westwood himself called it — cost the 23-year-old Englishman the chance of a share of the lead in the Dunlop Phoenix event here in Japan yesterday.

Westwood, winner last week of the Visa Taiheyo event near Tokyo, had been duelling throughout the first round with Jumbo Ozaki, a Japanese giant in stature and reputation, trying to outwit a man who is largely regarded as un-outfittable. Westwood had managed to get his tee

shot past Ozaki on three occasions during the round, but by the 18th tee had lost the honour.

Ozaki smashed a huge drive up the middle and Westwood decided he "would try to hit it past him". "Instead," he smiled, "I hit it 30 yards into the trees."

After that he struggled for a par at what is a birdieable par five and had to settle for a four-under-par 67, one behind the leader Tom Watson, level with Joe Ozaki and one ahead of Jumbo.

Watson, level with Westwood on the last tee, birdied the hole to take the outright lead, accepting in mature fashion that he was

going to be 20 yards or so behind Joe Ozaki but deciding that on the whole it did not matter much. He played the hole in conventional fashion, playing short of the green before pitching to 20 feet and holing the last of only 28 putts. He also holed one of 45 feet, two of 18 and one of 15.

Westwood's self-confessed recklessness off the 18th tee meant that not only was he deep in the trees to the right, he was behind one of them and with a root directly in front of his ball. His had to play out sideways with a wedge; then he hit a magnificent three-wood 247 yards on to the green before missing

what would have been an outrageous birdie from 22 feet.

"You're supposed to play the hole with a drive, three-wood and wedge," he said afterwards. "I played it with a drive, wedge and three-wood, so what's the difference?" But this talented young Workop golfer knows full well the difference, and conceded afterwards that being drawn into a big-hitting battle with the likes of Jumbo Ozaki had been unwise.

Nevertheless, with four birdies and no bogies, he put himself into a good position to emulate last week's win, a double which would yield £227,000 in prize-money.

"It helps," he said afterwards, "to play with good players playing well because it brings you along. It was fun to see my name on the leaderboard with a legend like Tom Watson."

Westwood, who had been undecided whether to play in the field of 35 in the Japan Series event in two weeks' time, with its \$300,000 (£186,000) first prize, has now decided that he will go home at the end of this week, and stay there. "I'm tired," he said yesterday. "I've been at home for six weeks since January and my mum and dad and fiancee have forgotten what I look like."

What he looks like to Watson is both good and young. "He's got a modern swing, a good action, he's a good putter and he's 23 years old; I'd trade places with him," said the American who has won eight major championships.

A win here would turn what Watson considers to be a "pretty good" year into an excellent one, given that before he won the Memorial event in June he had not won anything of significance for eight years. He has yet another new putter and although he says it has not cured his short-putt problems, he compensates by holding the long ones.

Motor Racing

World champion Hill unhurt as tyre test runs into a wall

DAMON HILL escaped unhurt yesterday when he collided heavily with a solid wall while testing tyres for his new Arrows team in Japan.

The Formula One world champion lost control and spun at low speed on cold tyres on the exit from the hairpin at Suzuka.

The impact ripped two corners from the car and wrecked the gearbox, causing the team to abandon testing a day early.

Hill was driving a Ligier for the scheduled two-day test because he is too tall to fit inside the Arrows car, which has yet to be adapted

for him. The team were evaluating the Bridgestone tyres they plan to use next season.

The former Williams driver, who clinched the world title by winning at Suzuka in October, had impressed before the accident. He set a fastest lap of 1min 40.14sec, which beat the previous best by a Ligier by more than 1.5sec.

Hill said before testing: "The purpose of this week's test is to get out there and establish where they [Bridgestone] stand now and what their potential is. It's important for me to get up to speed with them."

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ALLDERS, BY SHOPS, COMET, CURRYS, DIXONS, JOHN LEWIS, THE LINK, OFFICE 1 AND TANDY.

Jockey Club set to relax whip rules, page 13

Boro lose their Brazilian touch, page 14

Sportsmen join the dash for cash, page 15

Wigan want less TV time, page 15

SportsGuardian

Botham wins England recall

Full of shame but as punch drunk as ever

Mike Selvey reports on the daunting tour role that David Lloyd has given to the country's most charismatic cricketer this winter

ENGLAND yesterday added a familiar name to their winter tour party when Ian Botham was invited to act as technical adviser in Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

The former all-rounder has been angling for inclusion in the England set-up for some time and last season was touted as a team "motivator", a sort of totemic position. However, the idea was quickly smacked into the

back row of the stands by Raymond Illingworth, then the chairman of selectors.

His retirement has opened the way for Botham's return to international duty. David Lloyd, who took over as England's full-time coach last summer, has already identified as a priority the need to produce top-quality bowlers, and Botham's experience and tactical knowledge are seen as important to the programme.

"I have wanted Ian to be in-

volved with us for some time," Lloyd said yesterday. "And this winter we will be using his technical skills, especially on the bowling side."

"Ian is very happy to be asked — and the invitation has come from me. I have been mates with him for a long time and this is a personal arrangement."

In respect of technique and enthusiasm Botham could be an excellent choice. And an economical one too because

he will not be paid for his advice and will continue with his work as a Sky TV commentator.

During his career he was the most English of English bowlers, with the capacity to snake the ball both ways in the air, using natural aggression and unbounded enthusiasm. Nothing — when he had the ball in his hands anyway — was impossible.

Whether he can transcend a perennial problem of credibility that tends to blight England coaches is another matter. His wickets speak for themselves. However, good men have filled coaching positions in the recent past

without gaining the confidence of the players.

Last winter Illingworth employed both John Edrich and Peter Lever as batting and bowling coaches respectively but, despite their enviable records at international level, neither gained the players' confidence.

Both were perceived as too remote from the current international scene, and Lever in fact was central in the dispute with the then England fast bowler Devon Malcolm, whose technique he tried to adjust in South Africa last winter.

Botham will share the coaching duties with Lloyd



Vincent Hanna

ADMIT it, I did buy a pay-per-view subscription for the Tyson fight. "It's part of my job," I babbled at a man in the train. "I don't approve of it, but I have to."

He was mildly sympathetic. "You're a prat," he said. "I watched it next day. I hadn't the guts to tell him that I did the same thing; I fell asleep after the Naseem Hamed and Steve Collins fights, and forgot to set the video."

Barney Tremblay says that 26 children came round to her house for it. "They sat up all night, ate pizzas and drank milk. It was all that's good about modern youth." Barney is a style consultant and hasn't any honours on her books, but it's only a matter of time: *The pink shorts challenge the purple boots and scarlet gloves. The designer tattoo on the shoulder-blade gives an air of insouciance. And the ensemble is set off by the daring use of two pins of blood.*

Watching it next day was no substitute. It never is. The whole point is that frisson of uncertainty about the outcome, the raw thrill that comes from two men trying to hurt each other. It is not something I'm proud of, or can justify, but I cannot help it. As Hugh McIlvanney says: "Boxing, with all its ambiguities, offers in its best moments a thrill as pure and basic as a heartbeat."

McIlvanney has brought out a new edition of his book on boxing and argues that such inner conflict is helpful, perhaps even essential, to an understanding of a sport which for him has never been a mere contest of skill but a primitive trial of the whole man: "Any supporter of boxing who does not admit to some ambivalence about its values, who has not wondered in its cruellest moments if it is worth the candle, must be suspect."

As I read McIlvanney's vivid accounts of great fights, I realised how much boxing has marked the heartbeat of my own life. Without prompting they popped up like milestones in my mind. As clear as yesterday.

Listening to the radio on holiday with my uncle Joe — a

large missionary with a great left hook — as Randolph Turpin beat Sugar Ray Robinson with Harrington Dalby at the ringside.

Or recovering from the flu when Don Cockell fought Rocky Marciano. I can still hear the superb commentary by Eamonn Andrews.

Or sneaking downstairs at 11 to watch the first Clay v Liston fight.

Or huddling in a cinema on the Edgware Road in 1974 to see Muhammad Ali knock out George Foreman in Zaire. It is still the greatest sporting moment in my life.

McIlvanney tells how he sat in Ali's villa and listened to him unpick the fight for two hours: how he opted not to dance, how he let Foreman punch himself out on the ropes.

Carretta Clay, his tiny aunt, laughed and said: "He is the alpha and the omega."

McIlvanney's book looks at both sides of the sport: at Ali's miserable end in the ring, and at the suffering and despair that stalks every over-the-hill pugilist who could have been a contender.

In 1963 I was taken to the King's Hall, Belfast to see Johnny Caldwell fight Freddy Gilroy for the British and Empire bantamweight titles. Both came from Belfast and my head throbbled with the noise. Gilroy won in nine, and Caldwell's eyes needed 12 stitches. A woman in the row behind me was sick.

Yesterday I gave a boyhood hero a call. For 45 years Jack Magowan has covered boxing for the Belfast Telegraph. What, I wondered, had become of Gilroy and Caldwell?

Magowan told me how Gilroy had made a bit of money and bought a pub. But at the start of the Troubles a red X was marked on his front door and he was driven away to Australia. Now, home again and remarried, he is a car park attendant in Belfast. "I saw him at a funeral last week," said Magowan. "He's comfortable, and perky."

JOHNNY CALDWELL is neither. He drifts in and out of a Salvation Army hostel in Belfast city centre. He is not in good shape. Just another omega, I guess.

I should feel ashamed of this story and what boxing can do to participant and spectator alike, and I am. I should not look forward to the next prize-fight, but I do.

* *McIlvanney on Boxing* (Mainstream Publishing, £15.95)



Striking pose... Brian Laudrup fires Rangers into a seventh-minute lead at Celtic Park last night

PHOTOGRAPH: DARREN WALSH

Scottish Premier Division: Celtic 0, Rangers 1

Everybody misses but Laudrup

Patrick Glenn

ON A night when Paul Gascoigne and Pierre van Hooydonk each made a mess of penalty kicks, and most other players managed to miss at some point when scoring would have been easier, Rangers were left with Brian Laudrup's perfectly struck first-half goal to take them back to the top of the Premier Division.

Laudrup's goal after only eight minutes was a prime example of a man really enjoying a totally unexpected gift. The Celtic defender, O'Neill, had the ball at his feet midway inside his own half and was examining options for

the forward pass when he suddenly slipped and landed on his rear.

Laudrup took the ball away on his own, reached the edge of the penalty area and drilled the ball low to the right of Kerr. It was a terrific finish, taking full advantage of O'Neill's misfortune.

Rangers seemed to require that kind of intervention from Laudrup, as the manager Walter Smith had decided to play without a single recognised striker. With Laudrup capable of foraging voraciously on his own, Rangers' dependence on the quick break from defence was both understandable and indicated by that goal.

Celtic, despite the great bulk of possession and much

time spent in enemy territory, for long periods found difficulty in creating space where it mattered. They were not helped by Di Canio's insistence on playing to the crowd, appealing to the referee with mock hurt at every turn. It was no surprise when he was cautioned for his antics.

The Italian was found wanting when an error by the visitors allowed him a free run down the inside-left channel and he had not the strength or the pace to capitalise. McInnes was cautioned for his lunging challenge on Di Canio, but the tackle was unnecessary.

Van Hooydonk's ferocious free-kicks were always a worry and Goram had to leap

high to his right to save one net-bound effort, but Laudrup still looked the most menacing man on the field, forcing Kerr to block after he had intercepted a slack pass from Boyd.

Rangers were in front at a time when Gascoigne had been the quietest man in the game, almost anonymous on a night when the fire seemed to have been doused.

Celtic knew they were having a bad time midway through the second half, when another golden opportunity fell to Wiegman, who had earlier blasted over from close range. This time he hit Goram with the ball after Cadete and Grant had finally carved a great hole in Rangers' defence on the right

side of the penalty area.

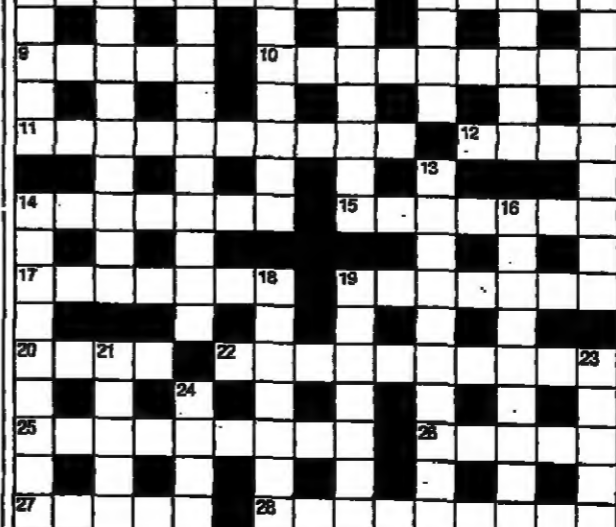
Things began to look much better, however, when they survived a penalty-kick just a few minutes later. Kerr brought down Laudrup as the Dane knocked the ball out towards the by-line, but Gascoigne's kick was weakly struck and close to the young goalkeeper, who hopped to his left to smother the ball.

Then, McKinnlay had replaced O'Neill and Cadete had taken over from Thom. McKinnlay's first two crosses were full of menace, but found no takers. It seemed, for most of the time, that Celtic could score only from such a play, for they were generally bereft of ideas in how to out-think the visiting defence.

Celtic: Kerr, Boyd, O'Neill, McInnes, Suttie, Grant, Di Canio, Wiegman, Van Hooydonk, Thom, Donnelly.
Rangers: Goram, Cleland, Robertson, Gough, Peart, Bjorklund, Moore, Gascoigne, McInnes, Albert, Laudrup.

Guardian Crossword No 20,811

Set by Fawley



- Across**
- Town's almost put claim in for redevelopment (9)
 - Live and work packaging black music (5)
 - Turn north with hesitation? I'm lost! (5)
 - Congential Italian is backing representative at one firm (9)
 - It could pay to look after one's circulation (10,10)
 - Fellow needs attention, giving cause for concern (4)
 - Have to restrain nag — a wild one? (7)
 - Test method of delivery usually employed? (7)
 - Ray has to smile after hearing a child? (7)
 - Introduction of Spanish article needed over by puritan (7)
 - Beam, taking in start of comedy that's risqué (4)
 - See 11 across
- Down**
- Finished with some lines, given different orders (9)
 - I compete with second group of climbers (5)
 - Quickly goes over writing, initially faint (5)
 - This is terribly toxic — moan about classification? (8)
- Solution tomorrow**
- 21 Belief held by sacred order (5)
23 See 8 down
24 See 3 down

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7 Green stuff covering coastal features, we're told (5)

8,23 Creating a scene by putting on airs? (9,5)

13 See 6 down

14 See 1 down

16 AI expanded into recyclable packaging (9)

18 Nothing in edition of Milton provided illumination (7)

19 Endlessly show off neat construction? (7)

21 Belief held by sacred order (5)

23 See 8 down

24 See 3 down

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